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Tuesday,
18th November, 1952

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price Six Annas (Inland)
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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

ACC. No. 25077
Dated 19.11.2014

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 18th November, 1952

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INDIAN TEACHERS FOR AFGHANISTAN

***388. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Afghanistan Government made a request to the Government of India for providing some Indian teachers for employment in that country; and

(b) whether any teachers have been sent to Afghanistan?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Did the requests specify any particular subjects for which the teachers were required?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The teachers were generally for English but with a knowledge of Persian.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have the Afghanistan Government also sent any teachers here?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Not that I know of, Sir.

FOREIGN EXPERTS ON HOUSING

***389. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any experts on Housing have been invited to India from foreign countries; and

(b) if so, whether they have taken up their appointments and commenced their work?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The Technical Co-operation Administration were requested to make available the services of experts on Housing, Building materials and Building methods for use in the Community Project Administration.

(b) One expert on Building material has joined and has commenced work. He will advise the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply as well as the Community Project Administration.

Sardar Hukam Singh: How many more are coming?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Two, Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Did our engineers express their diffidence in carrying out the schemes or was the offer made without consulting them?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is no question of their expressing any diffidence. But if all available material in the possession of any country can be mobilised and utilised it is worth while trying it, and it is on that basis that we are asking for these experts.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Was any conference held between the experts that came and our engineers and may I know whether they could give us any new things at all?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Actually meetings are taking place almost daily, and exchange of ideas, information and know-how goes on, and the discussions are very useful.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know from which countries these experts have been invited to India and what is the salary being paid to each?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have already submitted that one expert has already joined. He belongs to the United States of America. So far as salary is concerned, the salary will be paid by the Government of the United States, but we will supply office space, office equipment and other small things.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What is the experience of this expert in the housing conditions of India, especially in the materials and labour?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Sir, he has been here for some time, but he is supposed to be an expert on housing, building materials and building methods and has got considerable experience, particularly in the development of the indigenous material for aided self-help.

Shri Kelappan: May I know if there has been any demand from any foreign country for housing experts from this country?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, Sir, certainly for our engineers.

Aluminium Production

***390. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether there are any proposals for increasing aluminium production during 1952-53?

(b) If so, what are these proposals?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). The Indian Aluminium Company and the Aluminium Corporation of India propose to expand their annual aluminium ingot production from 2,500 and 1,500 tons to 5,000 and 2,000 tons respectively.

Shri Meghnad Saha: *rose—*

Mr. Speaker: Let the questioner exhaust his questions first. That is the convention which I have been following.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it proposed simply by expansion to increase production, or are any new factories being put up?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as these two factories are concerned, the intention is to expand the production.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the present installed capacity of these factories that are in production at present?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, the increase is from 2,500 to 5,000 tons in the case of the Indian Aluminium Company and from 1,500 to 2,000 tons in the case of the Aluminium Corporation of India.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the present production? Is it the installed capacity that the hon. Minister is giving for the present production?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is the installed capacity, and production is not very far below.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has the Industrial Finance Corporation come to the aid of these industries for expanding their production?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I understand the Aluminium Corporation of India has some aid from the Industrial Finance Corporation.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Has the Government any plans for manufacture of aeroplanes in this country and, if so, what will be the demand of aluminium for this purpose?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I did not quite catch the question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any plan with the Government of India to expand aeroplane building work and, if so, what quantity of aluminium is expected to be required for that purpose?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The question of aeroplanes happens to be within the sphere of the Defence Ministry and I am afraid I cannot give any information on that.

Mr. Speaker: So far as aluminium is concerned is not the Commerce Minister expected to know the quantum of its demand?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, we have in mind encouraging the production of aluminium so that we might be self-sufficient in respect of all our need which is estimated to be in the region of about 15,000 tons. Certain proposals have been made to Government in regard to the starting of an aluminium plant with an installed capacity of 10,000 tons. The proposal is under examination.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Is there any proposal to put up an aluminium plant in Sambalpur district in Orissa along with the Hirakud project?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, if our proposals mature I think that will be the venue chosen.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know the State aid given and the control exercised by the Government on this industry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: State aid has been given to this industry by means of protection. And the control exercised is the control that Government exercises on all industrial concerns that manufacture in this country.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is there any other commitment on the part of the Government other than the advance by the Industrial Finance Corporation?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Speaking without the book, I should say none. But I would like to make it more definite and if the hon. Member will put down a question I can answer it.

INDIAN EMBASSY BUILDING AT MOSCOW

***391. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Embassy at Moscow has been notified by an agency of the Soviet Government that the lease of its present building will be terminated; and

(b) if so, by what time the lease is likely to be terminated?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) 31st December, 1952.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether a suitable accommodation is going to be provided for our Embassy in Moscow?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir, instead of this house two other houses (smaller ones, adjoining ones) have been offered and we have accepted them.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How many times has our Embassy changed its premises since it was established in Moscow?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, I speak from memory, I think this would be the second change.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Does Government intend to build its own building there as it has been trying to in other capitals?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, there is no such intention. I am not sure but as far as I know, facilities for that purpose are not available there.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether our Government is ready to offer facilities to Russia for building their Embassy here?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We have offered facilities to every foreign Embassy, in a special extension of Delhi.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Is it the intention of Government to purchase a house there for our Embassy?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not quite sure but I believe that at the present moment purchases by foreign Missions are not permitted there, except such as were purchased previously before the rule was passed.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know why the old residence was changed?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: You mean why it is going to be changed? When we changed into this new building a year and a half ago, the lease itself was for 1½ years, and it is expiring in December. Of course, the leases are there for a year or thereabout and they are renewed from year to year. We hoped and expected it would be renewed, but then we were informed that they wanted this building for the extension of their underground railway and they offered us two other buildings which are somewhat smaller.

PAYMENTS TO U.N.O. ON BEHALF OF PAKISTAN

***393. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether the Government of India are still making payments to the U.N.O. and other international organisations on behalf of Pakistan?

(b) What is the total amount paid by India so far to the international agencies on behalf of Pakistan?

(c) Has any attempt been made to recover the amounts due from Pakistan?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) No.

(b) Rs. 2,78,71,486.

(c) Yes, A sum of Rs. 4,50,818 has been recovered.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, on what basis of the agreement the payments have been made to Pakistan?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: These payments were made in the year 1947-48. Since then no further remittance has been made on behalf of Pakistan.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether payments made have been treated as loans given to Pakistan and if so, what is the interest charged on them?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Pakistan would re-imburse us the amounts which were advanced on their behalf. So far as I know there is no interest charged. They have also certain charges on us

INDIANS ARRESTED IN SOUTH AFRICA

*394. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons of Indian origin who have been arrested and sentenced so far in connection with the campaign against Apartheid in South Africa;

(b) whether reports of inhuman treatment having been meted out to them have been received by Government; and

(c) in how many cases persons arrested have been punished with whipping?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Separate figures showing the number of persons of Indian origin arrested in the passive resistance campaign in South Africa, are not available. The total number of non-European volunteers reported arrested so far is over 7,000.

(b) Reports of severe sentences and harsh treatment meted out to passive resisters, police excesses and intimidation have been received.

(c) No information about the number of persons punished with whipping has been received.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know under what laws these *satyagrahis* are being punished?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The laws generally operating are what are known as the Apartheid Policy of the South African Government.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the number of persons of Indian origin who have fallen a victim to the shooting order?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Not any, our information.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether any monetary help has so far been sent from India to these sufferers?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Officially we have sent no money.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: May I know whether Government has made any effort to find out in what way Indians have suffered in these troubles that are going on in South Africa?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Quite a large number of Indians have been arrested and convicted. So far as shooting is concerned, we have no information about Indians being shot at.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether Government have received any suggestion to send a non-official or official delegation to South Africa of prominent Indian citizens?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We have no such intention.

Shri Velayudhan: I want to know whether Government have received any suggestion?

Mr. Speaker: This matter cannot be carried on any further. It is under the control of a foreign independent Government.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Are the Government aware that there is a certain section in South Africa itself which is against Apartheid and whether those people are participating in the movement and if so, how many?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We are aware of that fact, Sir, but we have not got figures of the various sections of the population there.

COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY (WORKING PARTY REPORT)

*395. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Party for Cotton Textile Industry has finished its work and submitted its report;

(b) what are the important recommendations made by the Party; and

(c) whether any action has been taken on the recommendation of the Party to reduce the cost of production?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The report is a voluminous one and is now being printed. It is proposed to publish the report. The recommendations made by the Working Party are being examined by Government, and necessary action thereon will be taken after Government have come to definite decisions.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, when the report was received by the Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I believe about 4 months ago.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, what are the reasons for the delay in the printing of this report in view of the fact that the Committee was appointed in June, 1950, and why the report was submitted late?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The delay is due entirely to physical conditions. I think the Press will take some time to print these reports.

DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN OTTAWA

*396. **Shri Nambiar:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether the accounts of expenditure of our Diplomatic Mission in Ottawa are audited?

(b) If so, do Government propose to place on the Table of the House a copy of the latest audit report pertaining to the High Commissioner's Office at Ottawa?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) There is no separate audit report on the High Commission at Ottawa. The High Commissioner for India in Canada submits monthly accounts of his expenditure to the Accountant General, Central Revenues, for current audit. In addition, a local audit is conducted periodically.

The Auditor General's Annual report is printed along with the Appropriation Accounts of the Government of India and is presented to Parliament.

Shri Nambiar: May I know the amount spent in meeting the medical bill relating to Embassy staff there?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: No information is available with me.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether it is a fact that the High Commissioner has got his own sister as a patient in the Ottawa T. B. Hospital?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Nambiar: The treatment is being given to the sister in the name of a domestic servant.

Mr. Speaker: What is the basis for that information?

Shri Nambiar: I want to know that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is very wrong to put a question of that type and create an impression that something is done by the officials there. He should find out the truth about it. Did he enquire from the Minister?

Shri Nambiar: I have got information, Sir.

May I know whether there is any local arrangement to audit the monthly bills by the Government of India there?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes. Formerly an Audit Officer from the High Commissioner's office in London used to audit monthly accounts of the High Commissioner's office in Ottawa. At present an officer is recruited from the Audit Office of the Washington Embassy to audit the accounts.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether any discrepancy was found out when this audit was being done? Any treatment to............

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

COAL (EXPORT)

*400. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the **Minister of Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the quantity of coal exported from India to the various countries in 1951 and from 1st January, 1952 to 15th October, 1952; and

(b) whether Government exercise any control over the export of coal from India and if so, what is the nature of such control?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 43].

(b) Yes. The export of coal is in the form of State Trading intended to absorb differences between external prices and Indian controlled prices to the exchequer. The established exporting firms act as agents of the Government of India. These firms have to obtain the prior approval of the Coal Commissioner before negotiating for orders, specifying the quality, quantity etc. of the coal. The Coal Commissioner has the discertion to accept or reject the offer for export taking into consideration the internal transport position and adverse effects, if any, on internal supplies. The price is also subject to the Coal Commissioner's approval, which is granted after it is verified that the controlled price will be paid to the Colliery concerned, and the surplus credited to Government as a surcharge. A release permit is issued by the Coal Commissioner after he is satisfied that the necessary formalities have been completed and a letter of credit opened.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Item No. 23 in the statement laid before the House says that 45,549 tons of coal have been exported to South Korea. May I know whether coal has been exported to South Korea before?

Shri K. C. Reddy: This was the first time that coal was exported to South Korea.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Do Government consider coal as a strategic material required for purposes of war or war industries?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Government does not consider coal to be a strategic material.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Prime Minister's office has stated that the export of coal is left to the private trade and Government has no control over it?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Private trade is only the agency, the mechanism through which export is effected.

PASSPORT SYSTEM

***401. Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state what were the definite suggestions made by the Government of India to the Government of Pakistan in connection with the introduction of Passport System with a view to prevent hardships to the people going and coming to Pakistan and India that were rejected by the Government of Pakistan?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India wanted to increase the number of check-posts between West Bengal and East Bengal and that the Government of Pakistan did not agree?

(c) What are the important points on which regulations in this regard made by India differ from those made by Pakistan?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The hon. Member may please refer to the answer given to starred question No. 263 by Shri L. N. Mishra on 13-11-1952.

(b) Yes, not only between East Bengal and West Bengal but also between East Bengal on the one side and Assam and Tripura on the other.

(c) The main differences between the two schemes are:—

(1) The Pakistan Scheme provides for permanent settlement in Pakistan by means of a citizenship certificate granted under Rule 12 or 20 of the Pakistan Citizenship Rules, 1952. As a citizenship law has not yet been passed in India, the Government of India have provided for the entry of persons migrating to India on the basis of migration certificates issued by Indian Missions in Pakistan.

(2) The Government of Pakistan wanted certain special facilities for seamen which the Government of India would be able to accord only to a limited extent.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, since the introduction of the passport system, whether the Government have been able to assess the reactions produced in Pakistan over their people?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am afraid we have no such method of assessing public opinion of Pakistan people with regard to this.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Is there any proposal to abolish this passport system?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member was not present at the time of this debate.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): There is no proposal as such; but I stated in the course of the debate the other day that we should be happy to abolish it. We were not agreeable to postponing it for a few days; but if it is to be scrapped completely, we would welcome it.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: May I ask a question, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: I think most of these questions were covered.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: The hon. Minister said that there was something like an Indian Mission in Pakistan. I wanted to know the nature of it.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Indian Mission means the Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca. That is the technical description of our foreign office.

LAND FOR HOUSING SOCIETIES IN DELHI

***402. Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state whether any effort has been made by Government to grant land at concessional rates in Delhi to Co-operative Housing Societies in order to relieve congestion in the city?

(b) Has any scheme on these lines been prepared for the planned development of greater Delhi?

(c) What step do Government propose to take to avoid the concentration of huge landed and housing properties in the hands of a few rich property owners, and to provide adequate facilities to the poor and middle class people for constructing their own houses within the Capital area?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Government have decided in principle that to the extent that the limited resources in land at their disposal will permit, co-operative housing societies, especially of persons belonging to the professional and middle classes should be given land on terms that will be reasonable having regard to the cost of development.

(b) There is no specific provision in the plans for the development of Greater Delhi earmarking areas to be allotted to co-operative housing societies; but demands for such allotment from co-operative societies as and when received are considered on merits.

(c) Apart from encouraging acquisition of land by co-operative societies, Government also limit the sizes of the plots when they are auctioned and try to secure that not more than one plot is allowed to be acquired by the same individual.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Has Government arranged to give some loans to such societies?

Sardar Swaran Singh: If there is any application, we will consider it on the merits.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: To what extent can loans be advanced?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am afraid, there is no such application yet. I cannot really say as to how much I can give.

Shri Gidwani: Have the Government formulated any plan.........

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; the hon. Member cannot put the question until he has been called upon. He will try to catch the eye of the Speaker and then he will be called.

Shri Vidyalankar: Is it a fact that a large number of people in the suburban areas have been made homeless as a result of the requisitioning of their household property by the Improvement Trust and no arrangements have been made for their rehabilitation?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The administration of the Delhi Improvement Trust is the function of the Delhi State Government. But, this question does not arise out of the main question. If the hon. Member wants this information, I can get it from the Delhi administration.

Shri Gidwani: Have the Government formulated any plans in regard to the grant of loans for these societies.

Sardar Swaran Singh: We have got an amount which we can spend for encouraging Co-operative housing societies. But, unfortunately, no Co-operative housing society as such has so far been formed. It is true that a certain number of people form a sort of an association. But unless it is co-operative in the real sense of the term, it is difficult for the Government to consider its claim either for allotment or for financial assistance in the form of a loan or otherwise.

Shri Gidwani: Are the Government aware that a number of Housing societies were formed in Delhi, subsequently they were not granted loans, and so they were closed?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am afraid the societies which are in the mind of the hon. Member were not really Co-operative societies. Certain Associations were formed; but there is a distinction between an association and a Co-operative society.

Shri Gidwani: Were they registered under the Co-operative Societies Act or not?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Unless any society is mentioned, I cannot answer that question.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What steps are the Government taking in order to provide co-operative housing to manual labour in Delhi?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Co-operative societies of industrial labour, if industrial labour is also in the mind of the hon. Member as manual labour, are definitely contemplated in the Industrial Housing scheme and Industrial labourers co-operatives come within the scheme of Industrial housing about which I answered a lengthy question the other day.

Mr. Speaker: Next question; Mr. Saigal; No. 404.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: 403, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: No. 403 has been deleted. No. 404.

ENQUIRY ABOUT HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT

*404. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a team of officers of the Government of India made an enquiry into the working of the Hirakud Project?

(b) What report has the Secretary of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, who enquired on the spot, submitted?

(c) Have the alleged and criticised financial and engineering irregularities on the River Valley Project been removed or not?

(d) Is it a fact that before this, a committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri G. M. Mckelvic and if so, what report had he submitted?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (c). The hon. Member presumably refers to the enquiry that is being conducted by the Joint Secretary in the Ministry into certain alleged financial irregularities on the Project. This enquiry has not yet been completed. He has submitted an *ad interim* report on accounting procedure which is under examination by Government.

(d) The final report of the Departmental Committee on Hirakud Dam Project, of which Mr. Mckelvic was a member has not yet been received by Government. The Committee submitted an *ad interim* report on accounting procedure and it is expected that a decision will be taken shortly on the modified form of accounts system to be introduced at Hirakud.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि हीराकुड प्रोजेक्ट की ऐक्टिविटी को देखने के लिये हीराकुड कंट्रोल बोर्ड और हीराकुड डेवेलपमेंट ऐडवाइजरी बोर्ड जो निर्मित हुई है, उसके क्या क्या कार्य अभी तक हुए हैं ?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is too wide, too vague and too general a question to put. Has he got any question on any specific issue?

Shri Jangde: In reply to my question asked in the last session, it was said that a Hirakud Control Board and a Hirakud Development Advisory Board have been constituted. Therefore, I am asking this question.

Mr. Speaker: But, the question is too vague.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What are the specific points on which these enquiries are made now?

Shri Hathi: The enquiry by the McKelvic Committee was about the Accounts procedure. That was the specific point which the Committee went into.

Shri Meghnad Saha: In view of the serious allegations made by the Estimates Committee about the Hirakud project, and the Bhakra-Nangal project, and also the speeches made in this House, does not the Government contemplate that non-official Members of Parliament should be associated in these enquiries?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if the report of the Majumdar Committee is available and will be laid on the Table of the House?

Shri Hathi: That will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know if, under Article 151 of the Constitution, it is obligatory to consult and seek the sanction of the Auditor General before making changes in the form of accounting, and whether after this McKelvic Committee report, Government have considered that after getting the sanction of the Auditor General.........

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; the hon. Member is asking for opinion on a legal matter. Next question.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: I have an important question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: May be; but I am calling the next question.

PATENTS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

*406. **Shri Bansal:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations made in the Final Report submitted by the Patents Enquiry Committee; and

(b) whether any action has been taken on the recommendations?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action has been taken on the recommendations contained in the interim report of the Committee and the Indian Patents and Designs (Amendment) Act of 1950 was passed in April 1950.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the fact that in the final report of the Committee it has been stated that while there are 10,000 foreign patents, there are only 700 Indian patents, do the Government contemplate taking any steps to break this foreign monopoly?

Mr. Speaker: I think he raised the question during the discussion on the Bill.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The point really seems to be that the hon. Member wants us to manufacture Indian patents and put them up, so that there may be parity between foreign and Indian patents.

Shri V. P. Nayar: That is not my intention. I wanted to know whether Government are taking any stepts to break the monopoly of foreign patents here, because it is admitted that it is injurious to the local industries.

Shri Karmarkar: Our Bill which became law the other day is one of the methods of stopping foreign patents, and I remember the hon. Member opposed it.

Shri K. K. Basu: Has any administrative change been recommended by the Patents Enquiry Committee?

Shri Karmarkar: That is under consideration, and we have postponed the administrative change till after the amendment has been introduced in accordance with their recommendation.

HINDUSTAN TELEPHONE CABLE FACTORY

***407. Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the total authorised and paid-up capitals invested in the Hindustan Telephone Cable Factory?

(b) How much of this is foreign-owned?

(c) What are the Government of India's interests in this, if any?

(d) What is the total production capacity of the plant and the actual production every year?

(e) Are there any foreign technicians working in the factory and if so, in which posts?

(f) How is the cable that is produced in the factory being used?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The authorised capital of Hindustan Cables Limited, is Rs. 3 crores. The exact amount of capital invested so far is not yet available. Expenditure booked upto the end of September, 1952, however, amounts to Rs. 2,49,032.

(b) Nil.

(c) The entire capital of the Factory will be owned by the Government of India.

(d) The production capacity of the Factory will be 469 mile length of cable per annum. Production is expected to start about the third quarter of 1953.

(e) No. The technicians of the technical advisers, Messrs. Standard Telephone Cables, of the U.K. are however on the spot supervising the erection of buildings and machinery.

(f) As I have said in reply to part (d), production is expected to commence only about the third quarter of 1953. It is expected that the Department of Posts and Telegraphs will absorb all the production.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know who are the Managing Director and the General Manager of this Factory, and what their qualifications, particularly with regard to experience of telephone cable manufacture, are?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There is no Managing Director for the Company. The General Manager, however, is Mr. Mitter, and he has had, according to our information, considerable experience in this line.

Shri K. K. Basu: Has any Indian been sent abroad for training, to be absorbed in this factory?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Six young men have been sent abroad for training in the Standard Telepone and Cable Factory.

Shri B. S. Murthy: How many foreign technicians are now working in the factory?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The answer is already given.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Am I to understand that the General Manager has special experience of telephone cable manufacture?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, sir.

INK FACTORIES

***409. Shri Nambiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether permission has been granted for the Parker Inc. Ltd. to start an ink factory in India?

(b) If so, where is it to be situated, when will it start production and what will be its total capacity of production?

(c) What are its authorised and paid-up capitals?

(d) Is there any Indian participation in the firm and if so, what is the percentage of Indian investment?

(e) Who are the Indians on the Board of Directors, if any?

(f) Do Government propose to place on the Table of the House a statement giving the number of Indian-owned Ink factories in the country, the capital invested in each of them and the production capacity of each of them?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Messrs. T. A. Taylor and Co., (Madras) Ltd., Madras, have been permitted to manufacture Quink ink in collaboration with Messrs. Parker Pen Co. Ltd., London, under certain conditions through a private limited company formed for this purpose.

(b) The proposed factory will be located at Madras. The machinery for Quink ink manufacture is expected to arrive in India by the middle of 1953 and production is expected to commence soon thereafter. Production during the first year of operation is estimated to be 10,000 gross bottles of 2 oz. each.

(c) and (d). The capital of the Company will be Rs. 2 lakhs, which will be subscribed by the Indian and the U.K. firms in the ratio of 1 : 2.

(e) To the knowledge of this Ministry, Mr. R. K. Murthe and Mr. Norman Beauford, are the directors of the Company.

(f) There are about 70 firms manufacturing fountain-pen ink in India. Information regarding rated capacity is available only in respect of 23 firms. A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 44]. The capital invested in these units varies from Rs. 250 to Rs. 2 lakhs and most of the factories have a capital well below Rs. 20,000.

Shri Nambiar: In view of the fact that it is mentioned in the statement that 15,86,000 bottles of ink are produced by Indian firms, what is the necessity to give permission to a foreign firm to produce 10,000 bottles?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In the first place, the inference which the hon. Member has drawn from the statement is not accurate. It is the rated capacity that is mentioned there, and the rated capacity, unfortunately in our country, does not always mean the amount of goods manufactured.

Shri Nambiar: May I know if ever Government conducted any negotiations with any Indian firm before giving permission to this foreign firm to manufacture ink?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government do not conduct negotiations.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, if in the ink industry, the ink manufactured has to be tested for 10, 15 years before it can be called proper ink that will last when written on paper?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a matter of opinion, and I am not an expert. All that I know is that at times when I buy ink manufactured in this country, it sticks in my fountain pen, and I am not able to use it.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is the Government aware that indigenous ink manufacturers are in a precarious condition, and this will only aggravate the situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. No answer need be given.

Shri Nambiar: Why did Government invite foreign investors in this consumer goods industry when there is enough ink manufactured in India?

Mr. Speaker: He is arguing the whole question again. It is only another way of putting the question.

Shri Kelappan: May I know how many foreign firms are already in the field?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have given the list here which the hon. Member might see. I do not know how many are foreign, and how many are Indian.

CONFECTIONARIES

***410. Shri Nambiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether permission has been granted for the starting of a factory in India by Messrs. Cadbury's Ltd.?

(b) If so, where is it to be situated, when will it start production and what will be its total capacity of production?

(c) What are its authorised and paid up capitals?

(d) Is there any Indian participation in the firm and what is the percentage of Indian investment in it?

(e) Who are the Indian Directors on its Board, if any?

(f) What has been India's total consumption of confectionaries during the past three years, how much of this was produced in India and how much imported, as also the value of the imports?

(g) Which are the major factories in India producing confectionaries, what is the capital invested in each of them and what is their total capacity for production?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, in December, 1948.

(b) The factory has already been established at Bombay and is at present producing mould chocolate, pack cocoa powder and Bournvita. Their proposed capacity for producing chocolate from cocoa beans would be about 450 tons per annum and for cocoa powder about 250 tons.

(c) The authorised capital of the company is Rs. 20 lakhs which seems to have been fully paid up.

(d) We understand that the percentage of Indian investment is 35·06.

(e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(g) A similar Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

[(e) to (g). *See* Appendix II, annexure No. 45].

Shri Nambiar: From the statement it is seen that the total estimated consumption for 1949 was 738 tons, whereas in 1950/51, it is 10,895 tons. May I know the reason for such a vast difference?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Which statement is the hon. Member referring to?

Shri Nambiar: The statement in reply to part (f).

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid it is a mistake. I think it is somewhere in the region of 9,738 tons. I am sorry for the mistake.

Shri Nambiar: May I know if the Government have entered into an agreement with this concern?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member does not seem to be familiar with the procedure. Government does not come to an agreement. They come for permission to Government for starting the manufacture. There are two types. Under the Industries (Regulation and Development) Act, certain scheduled industries will have to obtain licences from the Licensing Committee. Otherwise, any application of this nature comes to Government and is passed on to a Committee called the Secretaries' Committee. They scrutinise each application, and in the case of this particular concern or any other concern, they impose certain conditions, or give it without conditions. So, there is no question of Government inviting anybody to come and start anything here.

Shri Nambiar: When it is a question of granting license to a foreign concern, and there are enough Indian concerns manufacturing these things, may I know what the terms and conditions of license are for this foreign concern?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There are no terms of license. They ask for a license. If it is under the Industries (Regulation and Development) Act, the conditions are stated therein. Otherwise they are merely permitted. The question really is based on certain assumptions made by the hon. Member, which I am afraid do not bear any scrutiny.

Mr. Speaker: The point at issue is not the general practice or procedure. The hon. Member wants to know in this specific case, the terms of the license that has been granted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: This concern has been coming up to Government now and again from 1949, and in the latest instance I believe the matter was again considered by the Secretaries' Committee and they have insisted that they should start manufacturing in this country, and orders should be placed before 1952, and that the production will be increased to about 750 tons. Subject to these conditions, they have been permitted to carry on their work.

Shri Nambiar: From the statement laid on the Table of the House, it will be seen that there are nine factories producing these confectionaries, most of which are owned by foreigners. Why should any foreigner be allowed......

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is arguing the point again.

Shri Kelappan: Is this particular industry a scheduled industry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No. Sir. It is not.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: Before license is given to any foreign company or it is permitted to establish a factory here, are all other similar industries or concerns which are producing similar articles consulted as to whether they can produce more?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If it is something very big, well, we do consult other industries. If not, the industrialists are active enough to find out that somebody has applied for a license and write to the Government and object to the license being granted.

If it is a scheduled industry, when the Licensing Committee examines it, the Governments of the various States are invited to send their representatives, and if they have any information regarding any private industry, then that information is taken into account.

Shri Nambiar: Were there any objections raised by the industrialists in this case?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is no use pursuing an individual question in that manner.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: There being a large number of Indian manufacturers already in this line, have the Government considered the effect that this foreign combine is likely to have on the Indian manufacture?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is a matter of opinion again.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: I only want to know whether the Government have considered the effect or not.......

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter for argument or it is a suggestion for action.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: I only want to know whether this aspect has been considered............

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know whether these confectioners *i.e.* Cadbury's manufacture sweets like Parry's or Morton's, or only chocolate and cocoa?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is a slight misapprehension, I think, considering the nature of the question asked. Confectionary, generally according to the dictionary includes chocolates; there are firms in this country which manufacture confectionary bar No. 1; there are also others which manufacture chocolates. The hon. Member is quite right when he says that chocolates are quite different from confectionary. This particular firm only manufactures chocolates, cocoa, and another drink called 'Bournvita'.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: Was the opinion of the State Government obtained?

Shri K. K. Basu *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We have already spent more than five minutes on this question. I am going to the next question.

MANUFACTURE OF DIESEL ENGINES

***411. Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an Indian company is starting the manufacture of diesel engines in India?

(b) If so, which is the company, when will it start production and what will be its total capacity?

(c) Is it a purely Indian venture and if not, what percentage of foreign capital is invested in it?

(d) What other help is the Indian concern getting from foreign sources and under what agreements?

(e) What has been the value of Diesel engines imported into India during the past three years?

(f) To what extent will Indian manufacture save foreign currency reserves?

(g) What help, if any, are the Government of India rendering in the starting of this plant?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). There are 5 Indian firms, who are manufacturing diesel egines and 8 schemes have been approved by the Government. Particulars of the firms are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 46].

(c), (d) and (g). In the absence of the name of the particular company, to which the hon. Member is referring. It is not possible to furnish the information asked for. Some of the Indian firms have of course entered into technical collaboration with foreign principals purely under royalty terms for specified periods for receiving technical 'know-how'.

(e) Rs. 864 lakhs, Rs. 683 lakhs and Rs. 1473 lakhs during the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 respectively.

(f) Rs. 50 lakhs on the basis of local production during 1952.

Shri Nanadas: Is it a fact that the Hindustan Motor Factory at Calcutta proposes to enhance their plant so as to produce 3000 diesel-engines per month? If so, what help, if any, are the Government of India rendering them in the starting of that plant?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir. The Hindustan Motor Corporation happens to be one of the eight firms which have schemes of manufacturing diesel-engines, and the rated capacity of the plant that they propose to install is also 3000 diesel engines per month as stated by the hon. Member. So far as offering any help is concerned, all that the Government does by way of primary help is to permit them to manufacture, and secondly to give them raw materials which are necessary both by allocation from locally produced raw materials and also by licenses for importing raw materials from abroad.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether there is any possibility of exporting the Indian made diesel-engines to other countries? If so, what are the countries that are likely to purchase our engines?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid the Government have not explored these possibilities yet.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the Indian made diesel-engine has reached the quality standards of imported engines, and whether the price of the 10 H.P. diesel-engine is within the purchasing capacity of the common consumer?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My technical adviser, called the Industrial Adviser (Engineering), tells me that the Indian manufacture is of comparable quality. So far as prices are concerned, I think there is a price disadvantage so far as the Indian manufacture is concerned. But I cannot tell you the exact figures.

Shri K. K. Basu: In view of the large demand for these diesel engines in rural areas, is there any possibility of manufacturing special type of diesel-engines?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If the hon. Member could tell me what is the special type, I might endeavour to answer the question.

Shri K. K. Basu: Small and portable.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is the intention to encourage the manufacture of the smaller ones.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: What is the normal requirement of diesel-engines in this country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid an assessment to any precision is rather difficult. It all depends on the individual proclivities of buyers, and the seasons and other conditions which I am not able to envisage at the present moment.

EXPORTS

***412. Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what are the names of Asian and European countries that reduced their imports from India in the year 1951-52 in comparison with the year 1950-51?

(b) What are the main causes therefor?

(c) Which countries were the largest importers from India in those two years?

(d) What were the total amounts of exports to other countries in those two years, both in quantity and value?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 47].

(b) The decline in our exports may in the main be attributed to:

(1) Tighter control in 1951 over exports of some of our principal commodities, such as cotton textiles, oils and oilseeds.

(2) General recession in trade towards the end of 1951.

(c) U.K. and U.S.A.

(d) The value of our total exports to countries other than U.K. and U.S.A. were:

1951-52	Rs. 411.0 crores
1950-51	" 351.6 crores

As regards quantities, it is not possible to give the information desired owing to different denominations used in statistical returns.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know with how many countries mentioned in the statement we have trade agreements?

Shri Karmarkar: From exports to trade agreements! I am afraid, Sir, I require notice.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether imports by these countries have lessened due to the bad quality of our goods?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, the over-all balance of trade in 1950-51 and 1951-52?

Shri Karmarkar: It is fairly satisfactory.

FLOOD DISCHARGE OF KOSI

***413. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state how the flood discharge of river Kosi in the year 1952 compares with the flood discharge of the same river during the last four years?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): Peak discharge of the river Kosi in Chatra Gorge (at Barahakshetra) during the years 1948 to 1952 are as under:—

13-7-1948	4,78,442	Cusecs.
19-7-1949	3,75,717	"
20-8-1950	3,40,661	"
24-8-1951	2,56,284	"
24-9-1952.	3,10,000	"

Shri L. N. Mishra: Is it a fact that some new areas of Darbhanga and Saharsa Districts of Bihar have been affected by this river?

Shri Hathi: Sir, the Survey of the area affected by flood in 1952 has not yet been complete. But, it is a fact that some areas have been affected.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know, Sir, whether this river has taken an eastward swing again?

Shri Hathi: I am not aware of that.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN WEST BENGAL

***414. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) at which stage the Community Development Projects of West Bengal stand at present;

(b) whether District Development Committees and Project Advisory Committees have been formed;

(c) whether social workers for the field work have been recruited and trained; and

(d) if so, how many?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) After the preliminary survey of the areas, work has commenced in eight development blocks allotted to West Bengal.

(b) and (c). Not yet.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, what will be the status of the District Development Officer?

Shri Nanda: The District Development Officer is a District Development Officer.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether any Deputy Development Commissioner has been appointed in West Bengal? If so, what will be his functions and also his status?

Shri Nanda: Sir, I have no information today with me as to whether a Deputy Development Commissioner has been appointed.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, the number of projects taken up in West Bengal and the number of villages covered thereby? Has any Centre been opened in North Bengal?

Shri Nanda: There are 8 development blocks and work has been started in all those 8 development blocks.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is the hon. Minister aware that apart from the usual fanfare on the inauguration day, nothing material has been done to enthuse the people?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the work in some of these projects is unsatisfactory because there is lack of trained personnel?

Shri Nanda: Sir, personnel for the work in the project is being trained and by the end of December the requisite personnel will begin to be made available.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, what is the agency for the recruitment of the workers and officers for these projects in West Bengal?

Shri Nanda: Recruitment has been made by a process of selection in the first instance. For that purpose, Selection Committees were appointed.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Has the Bengal Government any say in it? Is the recruitment done by the Bengal Government?

Shri Nanda: Yes, Sir, the recruitment is initially by the State Government, subject to confirmation later by the Central Government.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, what are the special techniques that are included in Community Projects?

Shri Nanda: A large variety.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: Is it a fact that for recruitment for these projects in the States the State Governments have not got much of a say and they have to take people sent out by the Centre?

Shri Nanda: No, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the Union Public Service Commission has a say in the confirmation of the people already in service?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think so far as the Community Projects are concerned, it is now a matter of public knowledge as to what the Projects are.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I am given to understand that the Public Service Commission has invited applications.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Sir, the officers of the local Government will be also associated with the projects. May I know whether any anomaly will arise due to orders given by the District Magistrate and the Development Officer?

Shri Nanda: No, Sir, I do not apprehend any such anomaly.

SALT LICENSING SYSTEM

***415. Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state whether the recommendations of the Estimates Committee to abolish the licensing system of salt have been considered by Government?

(b) What is the opinion of the Departmental Committee appointed for examining the set-up of the Salt Organisation and the work of Government factories in the matter?

(c) How long will it take for Government to come to a final decision?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes, but no decision has been taken yet on account of the contrary advice tendered by both the Salt Experts Committee and the Salt Advisory Committee.

(b) The question of continuance or abolition of the licensing system does not form part of the terms of reference of the Departmental Committee.

(c) Government hope to come to a final decision shortly.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, how many regions have as yet been visited by the Departmental Committee and what are the things that they have examined?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am not in a position to give any detailed answer, Sir. But I presume that the Committee would have visited all the places before they gave their opinion.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have considered the recommendation of the Estimates Committee about maintenance of the staff of Watch and Ward? What decision has been taken by the Government?

Shri K. C. Reddy: That is altogether a different question, but from memory I can say that the Government have not seen their way to accept the recommendation to abolish the establishment referred to in the question.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether the Government propose to nationalise the salt industry in view of the fact that it is an essential industry?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No, Sir.

TRANQUEBAR SALT FACTORY

***416. Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether salt produced in the Tranquebar Salt Factory is banned for release; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a prohibition?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) There is no general ban, but 44,000 maunds produced in 1952 was not released for sale due to poor quality.

(b) The minimum standard fixed for salt for human consumption in 1952 by the Government of India is 93 per cent. in sodium chloride content. The salt produced by the Tranquebar factory in 1952 has been found to have a sodium chloride content of 91·37 per cent. only, which is below the standard fixed.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether this particular quantity of salt was sent to the laboratory and tested there and was it after that that the decision was announced?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is only after proper testing, Sir, that the decision is arrived at.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether the same variety of salt was not being used even before by the people?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Before means when?

Mr. Speaker: Before what date?

Shri Velayudhan: The same quality of salt used to be sent out even in the previous years.

Shri K. C. Reddy: In the previous years? If the hon. Member is referring to 1949 or 1950, perhaps it was. But we are now gradually stepping up the quality of salt. For 1952 we prescribed originally 94 per cent. sodium chloride content, but later we reduced it to 93 per cent. because of several representations from the salt manufacturers.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether there is any prescribed quality now decided upon by the Government regarding the salt?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, Sir. I have already answered that question. For the year 1952 the sodium chloride content of salt should be 93 per cent.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HATTI GOLD MINES STRIKE

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to settle the dispute between labourers and the authorities of Hatti Gold Mines in Raichur district, Hyderabad State;

(b) whether the strike is by individual workers or by any organised labour Union; and

(c) what are the grounds for strike and how far they have been tackled?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes; the officers of the Conciliation Machinery of the Central Government stationed at Nagpur and Hyderabad have tried to bring about a settlement through conciliation.

(b) It appears that no strike has been called, but that the Hyderabad Gold Mines Labour Union has been picketing the mines and thereby preventing workers from entering the mines. It is understood that the employers declared a lockout from the 15th October 1952, but that, according to the latest information available, underground workers restarted work unconditionally on the 11th November 1952 and mill and surface workers were expected to restart work on the 13th November 1952.

(c) A statement of the demands put forward by the Union is placed on the Table. On conciliation being taken up, there was a measure of agreement on some of the points, while the Union agreed not to press certain other demands at least for the time being. The Statement also indicates which demands were not pressed or on which there was agreement. There was no agreement on the remaining demands. Government will consider what further action, if any, should be taken.

STATEMENT

Demands put forward by the Hyderabad Gold Mines Labour Union and demands on which there was either agreement or which were given up by the Union.

(1) Temporary huts should be constructed in order to have accommodation for all houseless labourers and thus relieving the distress of the house problems of the labourers at present.	The Union agreed to await the decision of the Company.
(2) Dearness Allowance should be paid to all employees as per the cost of living index reading.	The Union agreed not to press this demand till they were able to present the case with more convincing facts and figures.
(3) Electric (street lights and house lights) lights should be given in the labour colony; in case it is not possi-	The Union was more or less satisfied regarding installation of more street lights.

ble two bottles of kerosine oil should be issued free of cost to every employee per month.	
(4) Firewood and charcoal should be supplied to the workers at a concession rate of 50 per cent.	
(5) The nominal house rent now being collected from the labourers should be dispensed with.	
(6) All the grades of the *maistries* head-maistries, banksmen, machine maistries in the underground department, and similar grades in other departments should be upgraded at least by a minimum of As. -/12/-	
(7) All the monthly paid staff will have to be provided with furniture, *i.e.*, one chair, one table and one cot at least.	
(8) The present scheme or Provident Fund is not compulsory and dearness allowance should be treated as an addition to the basic wages or salary for the purposes of calculating the contribution towards the Provident Fund by the employer.	The Union agreed not to press for compulsory provident fund.
(9) The present system of contribution towards Provident Fund by workers should be raised to the level of 10 per cent. and the discrimination should be dropped.	
(10) In case of Medical disability and retrenchment every employee should be paid one month basic salary or wages for the service of every one year rendered by the employee in the Company in addition to other legitimate termination salaries, compensation etc.	The Union agreed to withdraw temporarily the demand relating to medical disability grant.
(11) In view of the increased population in the camp a Maternity Ward and a Lady Doctor should be arranged for better maternity service and welfare.	The demand for a maternity ward was conceded. Union was convinced that there was no immediate need to appoint a Lady Doctor.
(12) (i) All the underground employees should get a cloth allowance as well as in other departments where the workers get their clothes soiled.	
(ii) Uniforms should be supplied to Watch and Ward Department employees.	
(13) In view of serious accidents taking place, an Ambulance car is necessary to transport such persons to Raichur or Hyderabad for treatment.	Demand not pressed.
(14) The Medical attendance should not come in the way of annual increment and Privilege Leave.	

(15) Accident (7 days) on 8th day if the employee was not cured and attended the hospital for treatment he must be paid 3/4 pay from the date of his admission in the hospital.

(16) There should not be any discrimination as regards wages, accommodation and other facilities, between the workers of the same trade and category.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: May I ask, Sir, how many workers have been arrested by the State police and how many of them have been sentenced to imprisonment due to illegal strike or any other unlawful activity?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have not got the actual number but we know that some workers have been sentenced.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: Is the number more than 100, or below?

Shri V. V. Giri: I cannot say what the number is. It may be 100 or below.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: May I know whether the Central Labour Ministry has sent or appointed any officer to go thoroughly into the matter and report to the Government; if not, does the Ministry intend to do so in the near future?

Shri V. V. Giri: The moment the dispute arose, the Conciliation Officer wanted to intervene, but the president of the union was not anxious for the interevntion. Later on, the Conciliation Officer did intervene, as a result of which certain demands were conceded, certain demands were not pressed and certain demands still remain.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: May I know Sir, if it is a fact that in spite of repeated representations to the Ministry, not a single grievance of the labourers has been considered by the agencies of the Mines, even the supply of water, apart from housing and other facilities?

Shri V. V. Giri: Not this Ministry, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the lock-out was responsible for aggravating the situation?

Shri V. V. Giri: May have been so, but most probably the lock-out resulted on account of the workers.

As good as withdrawn.

ENCROACHMENTS IN TRIPURA BY PAKISTANIS

The management agreed to consider individual cases if brought to notice.

Shri Gidwani: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistanis have made encroachments on the Indian territory in Tripura;

(b) whether Pakistanis have shifted Indo-Pakistan boundary pillars from their original sites to places inside Tripura occupying a large area of Tripura; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, what action has Government of India taken in the matter?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Government have received intimation from the Chief Commissioner, Tripura, that on or about the 10th November the Pakistan Passport Police Check staff encroached a little over 100 yards on our territory in Kailashahr in spite of the objection of the Divisional Office at Kailashahr. Objection was immediately lodged with the East Bengal Government and they were asked to remove their Check post.

(b) and (c). Owing to the boundary not being properly demarcated, certain unauthorised pillars were apparently erected. In May 1949 the Tripura and East Bengal Governments agreed that such pillars should be removed. Early in November this year, at a Chief Secretaries Conference held at Shillong, it was noted with satisfaction that the Directors of Land Records of the East Bengal and Tripura Governments had met and had agreed to start the work of demarcating the boundary between Tripura and East Bengal on the 8th December 1952. It was agreed that unauthorised pillars should be removed under the joint supervision of the two Directors.

No other information is available at present.

HEADSHIP OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (on behalf of **Dr. S. P. Mookerjee**): (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to amend the Constitution of India in view of the decision of the Constituent Assembly of the Jammu and Kashmir State to replace the Rajpramukh by Sadar-i-Riyasat who would be elected by the State Legislature as Head of the State?

(b) Has Jammu and Kashmir Government finally agreed to implement the terms mentioned in the Prime Minister's statement in regard to Kashmir before Parliament on 24th July 1952 with regard to the application of the provisions of the Indian Constitution, with or without modifications, relating to the following matters—(i) Citizenship (ii) Fundamental Rights (iii) Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court (iv) Financial Integration (v) Application of Article 352 (Emergency Powers of the President) of the Indian Constitution?

(c) How and when will such agreement be implemented by the State of Jammu and Kashmir?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The following action has been taken:

(i) A public notification has been issued amending the definition of the term "The Government of the State" in the Explanation in Clause (1) of Article 370.

(ii) An Order has also been made by the President providing that the term 'Rajpramukh' in the provisions of the Constitution applicable to the State means the Sadar-i-Riyasat; and making certain other consequential changes.

(iii) The President has been pleased, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly of the State, to recognise Yuvraj Karan Singh as the Sadar-i-Riyasat; and Yuvraj Karan Singh has taken over his office.

(b) and (c). These steps have been taken in furtherance of the agreement arrived at by the Government of India with the Jammu and Kashmir Government. I placed this agreement before the House in the course of a statement made during the last session, when there was a debate on this subject in Parliament. The Constituent Assembly of the Jammu and Kashmir State also accepted by resolution, the terms of the agreement. Part of that agreement has now been given effect to by the Jammu and Kashmir Government by suitably amending their own old Constitution and giving effect to that amendment. The remaining part has not yet been incorporated in the new Constitution that the Constituent Assembly of the State is drawing up. It will no doubt find a place in that new Constitution when this is finalised. Some matters have to be discussed further in detail with the Jammu and Kashmir Government.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: May we know, Sir, whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has finalised its position with regard to the applicability of Article 32 of the Constitution of India? Has that Government accepted the Supreme Court of India as the highest tribunal for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just said, Sir, that in so far as other matters are concerned, the constitution has not been drafted by the Constituent Assembly of the Jammu and Kashmir State, but the Constituent Assembly of that State has accepted that agreement which embodied some of these provisions here, as placed before this House.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Does the election or the appointment of the Sadr-i-Riyasat of the Jammu and Kashmir State in any way derogate from the constitutional powers and the status of the President of India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; they remain exactly the same as they were before.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Have the Government of Jammu and Kashmir indicated to the Government of India that they are in any way detracting either from the position which they had taken up or from the commitments that they had already made, or are they sticking to the same?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. If they have indicated anything at all, it is that they are sticking to their position and they propose to go along the lines previously intimated and agreed to.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Has the attention of the Prime Minister been drawn to the reports in the press that the new flag of the State of Jammu and Kashmir was unfurled and hoisted on the forts of that State and the Government buildings in that State? May we know whether the Flag of the Indian Union was also flown along with the State Flag, or was the State Flag flown in supersession of the Indian Union Flag?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This is a matter which was referred to during the debate that took place in the last session. There is no question of supersession of the Flag of the Indian Union. It is flown there. I cannot say at the moment whether it was flown yesterday or the day before that. But there is no question of supersession at all. This has been stated quite clearly by the Government, and I believe also the Constituent Assembly, of the Jammu and Kashmir State.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: May we know whether it is a fact that the Maharaja of Kashmir offered to abdicate or terminate his rule provided the same treatment was meted out to the Nizam of Hyderabad and other Rajpramukhs belonging to Part B States?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have no recollection of the Maharaja of Kashmir saying that. Whether he said it in the course of some communication—oral or otherwise—I do not know. The Maharaja of Kashmir has been in communication with us, and he is much more interested in the amount of privy purse he is likely to get than in other matters.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Will the State of Jammu and Kashmir be singled out for special treatment by the election of the Sadr-i-Riyasat of that State, or will the same treatment which has been meted out to this head of the State will be meted out to the other Rajpramukhs in other States?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The State of Jammu and Kashmir has been treated separately in this matter, because it is a very special and separate case. Throughout all these years, it has had to be dealt with in a particular way as, indeed, Article 370 of the Constitution indicates. What is going to happen in the other States in regard to the Rajpramukhs or in regard to other matters will be for this House to consider later.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the oath reported to be taken by Yuvraj Karan Singh, the Sadr-i-Riyasat of Kashmir, and is it a fact that reference to the Indian Constitution has been omitted from that oath and it is substituted by a reference to the Constitution of the Jammu and Kashmir State? If so, may I know the reason for this deviation from the oath taken by other heads of States as prescribed under Article 159 of the Constitution?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The oath was drafted by the Constituent Assembly. It was part of the Constituent Assembly's draft, I believe, and that oath refers to the Constitution of that State, but part of it is inevitably the Constitution of our Union. There is nothing wrong in it or nothing contrary, but it is not the same as the oath taken by the Governors or Rajpramukhs here—just as in other matters there are differences, *e.g.* the name is Sadr-i-Riyasat instead of Rajpramukh.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: As far as I remember, the Indian National Flag was to be flown along with the Jammu and Kashmir Flag. This was either agreed to verbally, or in the speeches made here. In view of that, do Government have any information as to whether the Indian National Flag was flown along with the Jammu and Kashmir Flag; if it was not, then will they take up the matter with the Jammu and Kashmir Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I really do not know what and where the flags were flown yesterday in Srinagar or Jammu. I cannot say that. But the Indian National Flag is flown on important occasions in important places.

Shri S. S. More: Does not the special treatment accorded to Jammu and Kashmir constitute a sort of discrimination running counter to the fundamental principles of our Constitution?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is asking for an opinion.

Shri K. K. Basu: Will the hon. Prime Minister be in a position to assure the House that the policy of substituting Sadr-i-Riyasat for Rajpramukhs will usher in a new era in regard to the abolition of Rajpramukhs in other States?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It need not be replied to.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Did the Government of India exert any pressure to bring about this abdication of the Maharaja of Kashmir or was it a voluntary retirement?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as I know, there was no abdication, voluntary or otherwise. It was only a question of the President exercising his right to recognise, under the Constitution, any head of the State he chooses.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it not necessary... (*Interruption.*)

Mr. Speaker: I think we are now entering into a discussion and prolonging the supplementaries with a view to converting the occasion of the Short Notice Question into a means of discussing the Kashmir issue.

We shall proceed to the next business.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DISPLACED PERSONS IN TRIPURA

***398. Shri Biren Dutt:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state what is the number of displaced persons who have entered Tripura after the introduction of the Passport System?

(b) What amount has been granted for the rehabilitation of these new displaced persons?

(c) Have new colonies been opened?

(d) If so, how many and how many people have been accommodated therein?

(e) How many people still remain to be settled?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

INDIANS IN KUWAIT

***399. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are Indian residents in Kuwait;

(b) if so, their number; and

(c) whether Government have made any inquiry regarding their condition, and if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). Yes, there are at present about 1960 Indians in Kuwait.

(c) An Indian Goodwill Mission was sent to Kuwait in December 1948, with specific instructions to investigate, *inter alia*, the condition of Indians there. The Mission reported certain grievances of the Indian employees of the Kuwait Oil Company and made recommendations for redressing them. Appropriate action was taken by the Government of India in the matter. Since October, 1950, a senior officer of the Indian Legation, Baghdad, has been paying periodical visits to Kuwait to inquire into the welfare of the Indian community there.

FIVE YEAR PLAN

***405. Prof. Agarwal:** (a) Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state whether printed copies of the final Five Year Plan will be available to Members of Parliament during the current Session?

(b) What is the progress of the Bharat Sewak Samaj in securing public co-operation for the working out of the Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) Cyclostyled copies of the Report on the Five Year Plan will be supplied to Members of Parliament during the present Session.

(b) The Bharat Sewak Samaj has begun to function in several States.

SINGARANI COAL FOR TOBACCO CURING

***408. Shri Buchhikotaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have received a number of applications demanding Singarani coal, from various tobacco growers' bodies in Andhra?

(b) Are Government aware that the above variety of coal is best suited for tobacco-curing?

(c) What steps are being taken by Government to meet the demands of the tobacco-growers?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) A representation was received by the Coal Commissioner from Guntur District Tobacco Growers and Curers Co-operative Society, Ltd., Ongole, for the supply of the major portion of their quota of coal from Singarani Collieries.

(b) It would be difficult to say so without examining the suitability of all other coals for tobacco curing.

(c) The current programme provides for the supply of 84 per cent. of the quota from the Singarani Collieries and the balance from West Bengal/Bihar and Talcher Coalfields.

HOUSES FOR DISPLACED PERSONS IN DELHI

***417. Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi has got any new plan for constructing new houses for displaced persons; and

(b) if so, how many houses are planned for construction?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) A plan for the construction of tenements, houses and shops was finalised in consultation with the State Government in the beginning of the financial year 1952-53.

(b) Tenements		8000
Houses/flats	...	1110
Shops	...	890
TOTAL	...	10,000 Units.

WORLD BANK AID FOR STEEL PRODUCTION

*418. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any World Bank aid is likely for the steel production expansion programme of the Government of India; and

(b) what happened to the Japanese and the German proposal for setting up a new steel mill in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The question is hypothetical. I am unable to hazard an answer.

(b) A proposal has been made by a Japanese Industrialist. The proposal is being examined.

INDIAN-OWNED NEWS AGENCIES

*419. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state the number of Indian-owned news agencies in India?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): Unlike newspapers which are required to file a declaration under the Press and Registration of Books Act, at present no registration under the Act is necessary in the case of news agencies and Government have, therefore, no accurate information regarding the number of such news agencies.

PRICES OF CEMENT

*420. **Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what are the prices of cement prevailing in Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and Gauhati?

(b) Is it a fact that each bag of cement must contain 112 lbs. of cement?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, how is it that one bag of cement in Assam contains 90 lbs. of cement only?

(d) What is the reason for this disparity?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to supply cement to Assam at a uniform rate?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The f.o.r. destination price of cement which the producers are allowed to charge at Calcutta, Delhi and Bombay is Rs. 71 per ton *plus* cost of packing. At Gauhati, an addition over this price depending on the actual freight incurred in effecting supplies to this remote station, is allowed. Retail prices are fixed by the State Governments concerned on the basis of the price chargeable by the producers, after taking into account handling and other incidental charges.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) The remoteness of this State from any cement factory and the transport conditions in the State render it impossible to make available cement at a uniform rate throughout the State.

DEVELOPMENT OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

*421. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the answer given to my Starred Question No. 1564 on the 8th July, 1952 regarding priority given to the development of cottage industries, and state the exact methods by which Government have given or contemplate giving high priority to the following cottage industries:

(i) Khadi; (ii) Ghani-oil; (iii) Paddy-thrashing; and (iv) hand-grinding of corn?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (i) Khadi.

It has been decided to set up a "Khadi and Village Industries Board". This Board will look after the development of Khadi and Village industries.

(ii) *Ghani* oil.

(a) The Indian Central Oilseeds Committee has been financing schemes in the various States for the organization of co-operative societies of village oilmen.

(b) It has taken steps to popularise the Wardha *ghanis* which is an improvement over indigenous *ghanis*.

(c) Schemes have been sanctioned for the grant of interest free loans to certain State Governments up to two lakhs of rupees for each State for financing co-operative societies of oilmen.

(d) The Committee is subsidising co-operative wholesale stores to cope with fluctuations in oilseed prices.

(e) Special arrangement has been made with the Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh, Gram Udyog Vibhag, Maganvadi, Wardha, for training of organizers and carpenters in the village oil crushing industry.

(f) In the interest of this village industry, the Government of India have, at the instance of the Oilseeds Committee, urged that State Governments should prevent indiscriminate establishment of oil mills.

(g) To help the oilmen from competition from oil mills, the Committee has recommended that State Governments should exempt oilmen owning two *ghanis* from sales tax.

(h) With a view to improving the efficiency of the existing *ghanis*, the Committee has announced an award of Rs. 5,000 to any one who designs the best model of village *ghani*.

(iii) and (iv). Paddy-thrashing and hand grinding of corn.

The Village Industries Board, to which I have already referred earlier, will examine the question of giving assistance to paddy thrashing and hand-grinding of corn.

HOUSES FOR DISPLACED PERSONS IN DELHI

***422. Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tenements built for displaced persons upto October, 1952 in Delhi and New Delhi;

(b) the new townships which are being built round about Delhi; and

(c) the number of displaced persons who will have residential accommodation thereby ?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) 23,566 tenements, 4,526, houses, 2,090 plots and 655 shop-*cum*-residences have been provided for displaced persons in Delhi up to October, 1952. In addition 1,200 cheap tenements, and 2,300 plots have been made available to ineligibles as relief.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 48]

(c) 1·78 lakhs.

ACCUMULATION OF COAL

***423. Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state what is the total accumulation of coal at pit-heads in the coal fields of Bengal and Bihar as on the 31st August, 1952?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): 3,107,650 tons.

REVISION OF CLOTH PRICES

***424. Shri N. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state when the last quarterly revision of prices for coarse and medium varieties of cloth was made?

(b) Was the price reduced or increased?

(c) What was the percentage of reduction or increase?

(d) How long did the revised prices remain in force?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) In July for the quarter July-September, 1952.

(b) and (c). Prices of coarse cloth increased by 5·55 per cent. to 6·75 per cent. over June 1952 prices and those of medium cloth were reduced by 0.63 per cent. to 1.58 per cent.

(d) These prices still continue in force except on certain varieties of cloth over which price control has been lifted.

POWER ALCOHOL

***425. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of petrol saved as a result of the compulsory admixture of power alcohol therewith;

(b) whether the required quantity of power alcohol was produced in the country in its entirety or imported in part from outside also;

(c) how the above admixture affects the price of petrol; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to develop the power alcohol industry in the country and the result achieved thereby so far?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
(a) 1950 ... 3·6 million gallons.

1951 5·32 " "

1952 ... 5·4 " "

(upto September)

(b) The entire quantity was produced in the country.

(c) The admixture sells at the same price as neat petrol.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 49].

COAL SEAM IN ORISSA

*426. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that near the Talchar colliery worked by the Government of India in Orissa, they have found a sixty feet seam of easily workable coal;

(b) whether it is a fact that this coal deposit, if worked, is likely to preceptibly reduce the coal scarcity for the Railways and industry in the South;

(c) whether there is any difficulty in the Government of India being allowed to work this seam; and

(d) whether all work connected therewith is at a standstill?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) A seam of coal 35′ to 50′ in thickness occurs in the property adjacent to the Talcher Colliery.

(b) Yes, but only after the existing shortage of transport for the movement of coal to the South *via* Waltair is eased.

(c) The Government of India have applied to the Orissa Government for the grant of prospecting licence and mining lease over the area and the application is now under the consideration of the State Government.

(d) Pending the grant of prospecting licence, etc. by the Government of Orissa, no further work can be undertaken.

UNAUTHORISED COLONIES IN WEST BENGAL

*427. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons' colonies in West Bengal that have not been recognised by Government as authorised colonies and the population of these colonies;

(b) the number of families in such colonies that have got rehabilitation loan from the Government of India; and

(c) whether Government have any scheme to transform these unauthorised colonies into authorised colonies and if so, what is it?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) 133 Colonies with a population of 1,28,598 persons.

(b) Nil.

(c) Yes. With a view to regularize these colonies the Government contemplate to acquire the land in certain colonies the acquisition expenses being passed on to the colonists as loans.

UNDER-STUDY TO CHIEF ENGINEER, D.V.C.

*428. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state whether the recommendation of the Estimates Committee regarding the appointment of a suitable engineer as under-study to the Chief Engineer D.V.C. has been considered?

(b) If so, what decision has been taken?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Damodar Valley Corporation will have a fair field for the selection of a successor to the present Chief Engineer from their own cadre when the time comes.

DEVELOPMENT OF MAHARASHTRA AREA OF HYDERABAD STATE

*429. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has agreed to include the Maharashtra area of Hyderabad State under the Five Year Plan for development of irrigation and Hydro-electric projects?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): Information is being obtained from the Hyderabad Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

VISIT OF STEEL EXPERTS TO JAPAN

*430. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state how many experts have been sent from India to Japan to study the equipment and techniques of the well-developed Japanese Iron and Steel Industries?

(b) How many of these experts are from the factories owned by private companies and how many are officials of the Government of India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Two—One official and one nominee of the industry.

POPULARISATION OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES PRODUCTS

*431. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the specific steps taken by the representatives of the Government of India in foreign countries to popularise the cottage industries products of India?

(b) How many of our Embassies abroad have opened Cottage Industries Emporia?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The following steps have been taken by the representatives of the Government of India in foreign countries to popularise Indian cottage industry products:

- (i) Participation in International Fairs and Exhibitions.
- (ii) Press Conferences during such fairs
- (iii) Release of documentary films dealing with Indian commercial products.
- (iv) Establishment of show-rooms and show-cases displaying Indian products including cottage industry products and also samples of goods.
- (v) Bringing out publicity literature and press bulletins propagating Indian goods.
- (vi) Delivery of lectures by Trade Representatives publicising Indian goods.
- (vii) Establishing personal contacts with Chambers of Commerce and Associations etc.
- (viii) Distribution of leaflets portraying Indian cottage industry products.

(b) No regular Emporia have been opened by the Indian Embassies abroad; but show-rooms and show-windows have been attached to our Embassies for display of Indian goods and affording to them the required publicity.

BONE AND BONEMEAL (EXPORT)

*432. **Shri Jasani:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of bonemeal and bones exported during the year ending the 31st of March, 1952; and

(b) the country-wise export during that period and its value?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Export of bonemeal and uncrushed bones was banned during the year ending 31st March, 1952.

CLAIMS FOR PROPERTY (VERIFICATION)

*433. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) how many claim property sheets in respect of urban and rural were verified upto the 31st August, 1952;

(b) how many claim property sheets both urban and rural still remain to be verified including those rejected in default of appearance of the claimant and cases of untraced claimants after the 31st August, 1952;

(c) how many Agricultural claim property sheets from Sind, N.W.F.P., and Baluchistan were verified before the 31st August, 1952 and how many yet remained unverified after 31st August, 1952; and

(d) when the verification of claim sheets of all categories will be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) 10,01,033.

(b) About 37 thousand claims for property other than agricultural land including 28 thousand claims whose claimants are untraceable or which have been rejected *ex parte* and 1,15,836 claims for agricultural land.

(c) (i) Verified before 31-8-52 29,059

(ii) Remaining unverified on 1-9-52. 1,15,836

(d) Urban claims are expected to be finished by December, 1952 and agricultural claims by March, 1953.

CLAIMS OFFICERS AND COMMISSIONERS

*434. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total number of Claims Commissioners and claims officers appointed in the claims organization;

(b) what was the number of claims officers retained after the 31st August, 1952;

(c) how many of those retained officers are displaced persons and how many of them are non-displaced persons;

(d) how many of them are pension-holders;

(e) how many of them are superannuated;

(f) how many of them are on deputation from other Government departments;

(g) whether any special posts have been created for certain officers with a special grade of salary;

(h) if so, the number of such officers and the amount of salary that they draw; and

(i) how many claims officers have been absorbed in the Settlement Department of the compensation scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a)—

Claims Commissioners 17

Claims Officers 267

(b) 173.

(c) Displaced persons ....165.

Non-displaced persons............8.

(d) 32.

(e) 72.

(f) 12.

(g) No.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) 2.

REPRESENTATIVES OF COLLIERY OWNERS

***425. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Government and/or semi-Government bodies or Committees to which representatives of colliery owners are taken;

(b) how these are taken, whether by election or by nomination; and

(c) whether these are taken on the basis of different organisations of colliery owners or on the basis of the general list of colliery owners?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) to (c). A statement containing information relating to Central Government bodies and/or semi-Government bodies etc. is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 50].

FERTILISERS

***436. Shri Chinaria:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of fertilisers was produced by the Sindri Factory from October 1951 to August, 1952;

(b) how much was imported from abroad during that period; and

(c) how much of the fertilisers produced in Sindri Factory and imported from abroad has been consumed and what quantity of it was in stock at the end of that period (31st August, 1952)?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) 91,566 tons of Ammonium Sulphate.

(b) 1,84,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate.

(c) The actual quantity of Ammonium Sulphate consumed in the country during the period under reference is not known. Out of the quantity of 91,566 tons produced by the Sindri Factory, and 1,84,000 tons imported from abroad, 65,353 tons and 1,53,287 tons, respectively, were supplied to the various State Governments and other consumers. The balance was in stock at the Sindri Factory or at the ports.

SHORTAGE OF PIG IRON

***437. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the steps taken or those in contemplation for meeting the shortage of pig iron till the proposed factory with U.S.-Japanese co-operation is set up?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Government propose to give all reasonable assistance to the principal producer of pig iron, namely, the Indian Iron and Steel Company to expand their production of pig iron.

EXPORT OF HAND-LOOM CLOTH

***439. Shri Balakrishnan:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether handloom cloth is exported to foreign countries?

(b) Which are the countries which import Indian handloom cloth?

(c) What kinds of handloom cloth are exported?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes.

(b) The principal countries which import Indian handloom cloths are: Burma, Malaya, Straits Settlements, Ceylon, Siam, Zanzibar, Sudan, Mauritius, Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Fiji Islands and French West Africa.

(c) A list of varieties of handloom cloth usually exported is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 51].

LIGNITE ORES (MINING)

*440. **Shri Balakrishnan:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mining scheme of lignite ores is in operation in the South Arcot district of Madras State;

(b) whether the mining scheme is in the experimental stage; and

(c) whether the Central Government have given financial aid to the Madras Government for the scheme?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) and (b). The State Government have decided to undertake a Pilot scheme to examine whether the deposits could be worked or not.

(c) Yes, in the shape of a loan of heavy excavating machinery for working the scheme.

DISPLACED PERSONS FROM EAST PAKISTAN

*441. **Shri Meghnad Saha:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total number of displaced persons who have arrived in West Bengal from East Pakistan during the months of August, September and October, 1952 and what arrangements have been made by Government for their maintenance and rehabilitation?

(b) What are the camps to which they are being sent?

(c) Have any arrangements been made for enumerating the number of displaced persons belonging to separate professional groups and to provide them with work in accordance therewith?

(d) Have any of the displaced persons arriving this month been sent out of Bengal, and if so, what are the States and places to which they have been sent?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) (i) 1,86,226 persons.

(ii) Destitute displaced persons are first taken to camps where doles for maintenance are paid. Later, they are dispersed to rehabilitation or work sites as the case may be, and provided with work against wages instead of doles. Displaced persons who remain outside camps are also given rehabilitation facilities according to various schemes.

(b) A statement giving the location of the camps is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 52].

(c) Yes, in so far as displaced persons in camps are concerned.

(d) Yes, Charbatia in Orissa and Ghazidah in Bihar.

COCONUT OIL

*442. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the quantity of coconut oil imported into India during 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(b) When was the import duty on coconut oil reduced last?

(c) What was the rate of reduction?

(d) What was the total loss caused to exchequer due to this reduction?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The quantities imported were:—

1950-51	43,75,271	gallons.
1951-52	69,93,766	"

(b) 24th November, 1951.

(c) The standard rate of duty was reduced from 35 per cent. *ad valorem* to 31¼ per cent. *ad valorem* and preferential rate from 25 per cent. *ad valorem* to 21 per cent. *ad valorem*. Further, the additional import under the Finance Act, 1951, at the rate of 25 per cent. of the normal import duty was also withdrawn.

(d) There has been no loss in revenue so far. On the contrary, the revenue has gone up as a result of increased imports.

KHADI AND HAND-SPUN YARN

*443. **Shri Basappa:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Khadi goods worth several lakhs and hand-spun yarn worth Rs. 20 lakhs were lying unsold recently in Madras State;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 60,000 spinners engaged in Khadi production under the aegis of the Madras Government are now without employment; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in these matters?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Government are aware that there are some accumulations of Khadi stocks in the country and that there is consequently some depression in the industry. Specific information in regard to the position in Madras has been called for and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

(c) Government have finalized a proposal for the setting up of a Khadi and Village Industries Board which will when constituted deal with the present situation and suggest ways and means for effecting improvement, particularly in the marketing and sale of Khadi.

ANTI-MERGER PARTISANS OF PONDICHERRY

***445. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the anti-merger partisans of Pondicherry entered into Indian territory and committed acts of goondaism;

(b) how many were killed or wounded and what is the extent of damage to property;

(c) whether any representations have been made to the French authorities regarding the prevalence of utter lawlessness in Pondicherry; and

(d) whether any protests have been made to them regarding the violation of Indian territory?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A list of the border incidents from 1st July 1952 to 31st October 1952, is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 53].

It will be seen that no one was killed in these incidents. Exact information regarding the number of persons wounded and the extent of damage to property is not available.

(c) and (d). The Indian Consul General at Pondicherry has, in each case of goondaism and violence, protested to the local authorities. The Government of India also have, during the last two months, sent notes to the French Government protesting against the prevalence of lawlessness in the French Settlements and the violation of Indian territory by the French authorities and the goondas. In view of the continuance of lawlessness in these French territories in India, the Government of India have informed the French Government that there is no possibility of a fair plebiscite there and therefore discussions should take place between the Government of India and the French Government on the basis of the merger of these territories with the Union of India. No answer has thus far been received from the French Government to this communication.

COARSE AND MEDIUM CLOTH

***446. Shri Pataskar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is greater scope for coarse and medium cloth than for fine and superfine cloth for export to foreign countries;

(b) whether there is also greater scope for such cloth for internal consumption;

(c) whether for manufacture of fine and superfine cloth a large quantity of foreign cotton has to be imported;

(d) whether a large quantity of short staple cotton useful for manufacture of coarse and medium cloth is exported to foreign countries including Japan; and

(e) whether any steps are being taken by Government to see that medium and coarse cloth is manufactured by Indian Mills out of Indian cotton on a larger scale?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Only such quantity of foreign cotton is imported as is required by the cotton textile mills in addition to the Indigenous cotton available.

(d) No.

(e) All Indian Cotton that can be utilized for the manufacture of coarse and medium cloth is being allotted to the mills.

PAKISTAN'S BAN ON INDIAN FILMS

***447. Pandit Algu Rai Shastri:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the reasons for the ban on Indian films imposed by the Pakistan Government?

(b) What was the income that accrued to India and Pakistan from each other on account of this trade?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No ban has been imposed by the Pakistan Government on the import of Indian films.

(b) During the period from the 26th February 1951 to the 7th August 1952 the value of Indian films exported to Pakistan was Rs. 43,51,831 and Pakistan's export to this country Rs. 37,133.

PLACES FOR REHABILITATION

***448. Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wishes of displaced persons are consulted before they are sent to the places chosen for rehabilitation; and

(b) in how many cases places asked for rehabilitation by displaced persons have been agreed to?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) Yes, as far as practicable within the limits of the rehabilitation schemes.

(b) The amount of labour and expense involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with the results achieved.

MACHINE TOOL FACTORIES

***449. Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount invested so far in the machine tool factories in India; and

(b) the investments made by Indian and foreign agencies separately?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Rs. 1 crore approximately (exclusive of the amount invested in the State owned Machine Tool Project).

(b) No foreign capital is invested in the Machine Tool factories.

BATTERY SEPARATORS

***450. Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount invested on factories for manufacture of battery separators; and

(b) the amount of foreign capital invested in the same?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Rs. 2·2 Lakhs.

(b) Nil.

GONDIKOTA PROJECT

***451. Shri Eswara Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state whether the Madras Government have recommended the inclusion of Gondikota Project (Cuddapah District) in the revised draft of the Five Year Plan?

(b) If so, has the Planning Commission included it?

(c) If not, what are the reasons?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not yet.

(c) A decision in this matter can be taken only after the final report of the technical committee on the use of the Krishna and the Godavari waters is available.

REHABILITATION SCHEME

***452. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state what is the general nature of the 38 rehabilitation schemes for East Bengal refugees reported to have been proposed by the Central Government?

(b) How much money has been allotted for these schemes?

(c) How many of these schemes relate to agriculturists?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) The Central Government has not proposed the schemes referred to in the question.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

EAST BENGAL DISPLACED PERSONS

***453. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state what are the total number of displaced persons who have entered India from East Bengal weekwise since September, 1952 up to the 15th October, 1952?

(b) Are Government aware that a large number of genuine displaced persons have not got border-slips and if so, how many?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

U.S.A. COTTON

***454. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what are the total amount of imports of raw cotton from America during the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(b) How do the prices compare with Pakistan cotton?

(c) What are the total freight charges paid during this period for importing U.S.A. cotton?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Rupees 5·3 crores approximately.

STATEMENT

Year	Imports of cotton from the U.S.A. (in bales of 400 lbs. each).	Average price of U.S.A. cotton per bale of 400 lbs.	Average price of Pakistan cotton bale of 400 per lbs.
		Rs.	Rs.
1949-50	22,198	689	510
1949-50	564,505	719	597
1951-52	687,518	910	1,080

QUESTIONNAIRE TO FOREIGN COMPANIES

***455. Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state how many foreign companies have replied to Government questionnaire with regard to the number and treatment of Indian employees?

(b) Has any foreign firm failed to furnish the information?

(c) If so, what action is proposed to be taken against such firms?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) 955 foreign companies have sent the required information on the employment of Indians and non-Indians in accordance with the Government of India notification of the 31st July, 1952.

(b) I believe some firms have not yet sent the information.

(c) The matter is receiving Government's consideration.

CHUNAR DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP

***457. Shri Rup Narain:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) how many displaced persons have been kept in the Camp of Chunar in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether they have been given any vocational training in order to enable them to earn their livelihood in future; and

(c) what is the total annual expenditure on account of the said Camp?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) 722 displaced women and children are accommodated at present. But recently it has been decided to raise the strength of the 'Home' to 1,200 (600 women and 600 children).

(b) Yes, those who are capable of being trained are given training.

(c) The estimated expenditure for the current financial year is Rs. 6,02,905.

EVACUEE PROPERTY IN BANARAS

***458. Shri Rup Narain:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of evacuee property have been executed by the District Custodian Officer in the district of Banaras; and

(b) how many cases executed in Banaras have been proved false?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) and (b). I regret I do not follow what the hon. Member wants to know. If his intention is to ascertain the number of cases in which proceedings under the Evacuee Property Law were initiated, and the number in which proceedings were eventually dropped in the District of Banaras, this information is not readily available. It will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEES IN U.P.

***459. Shri Rup Narain:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government have appointed the District Planning Committees in every district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) who are the *ex-officio* members of the district planning Committees; and

(c) whether the Members of Parliament are *ex-officio* members of the said Committees in their districts?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) to (c). Necessary information is being collected from the Uttar Pradesh Government.

गृह-निर्माण योजना

***४६०. डा० सत्यवादी :** क्या निर्माण, गृह-व्यवस्था तथा रसद मन्त्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) मकानों की कमी को पूरा करने के लिये जो नौ करोड़ रुपये की राशि अलग रखी गई है उसे किस प्रकार खर्च किया जा रहा है ;

(ख) क्या इस सम्बन्ध में राज्य सरकारों को कोई विशेष योजना भेजी गई है, और यदि हां, तो वह योजना क्या है ;

(ग) विभिन्न राज्यों को अलग अलग कितना रुपया दिया जाने का विचार है ; तथा

(घ) क्या हरिजनों को मकान बनाने में सहायता देने के लिए भी इस राशि का कोई भाग सुरक्षित रखा गया है ?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme of the Government of India it is proposed at the moment to give Rs. 716 lakhs as loans and subsidies to State Governments, Employers and co-operative societies of industrial workers as follows:

Subsidies	...	Rs. 324 lakhs.
Loans	...	Rs. 392 lakhs.
TOTAL	...	Rs. 716 lakhs.

The subsidy and loans are meant for construction of houses for industrial workers.

Government will be prepared to consider spending the remaining amount on aid for slum clearance and housing for non-industrial workers and other low income groups, mainly through co-operatives, if suitable schemes are forthcoming.

(b) Yes. A copy of the Subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme, which has already been laid on the Table of the House on the 13th November, 1952, in reply to Question No. 250, has been circulated to all the State Governments.

(c) Schemes, as they are received from the State Governments, are examined on merits and allocations are made equitably, keeping in view the needs of the Industrial labour force in the various States and the total available provision.

(d) As Harijans constitute an appreciable portion of Industrial labour, the scheme, as it is, will, it is expected, assist Harijans and it is not therefore considered necessary that any amount should be specially earmarked for this purpose.

ROCK SALT FOR U.P.

***461. Shri M. L. Agrawal:** (a) Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2212 on the 29th July, 1952 regarding production and allotment of Salt and state whether there is a demand for rock-salt in Uttar Pradesh?

(b) Why no rock-salt allotted to Uttar Pradesh?

(c) Is it the intention of Government to allot some rock-salt also to Uttar Pradesh in the current and future years?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) There is practically no such demand at present from the consumers, who appear to have accustomed themselves to the use of sea, lake and pit brine salts.

(b) Because the rock salt produced in Himachal Pradesh, our only source of supply in India, is not fit for human consumption without refining. Further, the quantity produced is small and is completely consumed within Himachal Pradesh.

(c) There is no possibility of allotting rock-salt to Uttar Pradesh or any other State for at least a few years i.e. until the scheme for the development of Mandi Salt Mines is successfully implemented. Even then, the final product will consist of refined or table salt, and not lump or rock-salt.

RESTORATION OF EVACUEE PROPERTY

***462. Shri M. L. Agrawal:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of applications for restoration under Section 16 of the Administration of Evacuee Property Act XXXI of 1950 has recently been rejected by the Custodian in Uttar Pradesh on the ground that the applicants had not produced the 'Permanent Resettlement Certificate' from the Government of India?

(b) Are there cases in Uttar Pradesh and if so, how many, where restoration has been allowed under Section 16 without producing the said Certificate?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

COMPENSATION TO DISPLACED PERSONS

***48. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations made by Tekchand Committee in regard to grant of compensation to displaced persons from Western Pakistan have been considered by Government;

(b) if so, what is their decision regarding the same; and

(c) when the scheme of compensation will be implemented?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). Tekchand Committee has not yet sent its recommendations to Government officially. A draft of its recommendations is, however, available and is under consideration.

(c) Tentative proposals regarding the compensation scheme prepared in the Ministry of Rehabilitation were placed before a Conference of Secretaries of State Rehabilitation Departments and Custodians of Evacuee Property in September last. Their views were considered by a Conference of State Rehabilitation Ministers held immediately afterwards. Tekchand Committee was also consulted on the same proposals. A scheme is now being prepared in the light of the views expressed in different quarters and will be placed before Government for orders. No definite date can be given at present when the scheme will be implemented.

RAJASTHAN CANAL PROJECT

136. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state what steps are being taken in connection with the Rajasthan Canal Project of which the preliminary investigation has already been carried out?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The preliminary investigations in connection with The Rajasthan Canal are still in progress. Field work has been completed and the project report is under preparation.

MAIZE STARCH (PRODUCTION)

137. Dr. Amin: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the production of maize starch in the country during the year 1952 (up to June); and

(b) the consumption of starches in the country during this period?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) About 6,060 tons.

(b) About 9,800 tons of starch of all kinds.

DECONTROL OF IRON, STEEL AND COAL

138. Dr. Amin: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decontrol Iron and Steel and Coal; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, when?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

BARODA BROADCASTING STATION

139. Dr. Amin: Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state the amount which is being spent annually by the Government of India for running the Broadcasting Station at Baroda?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): The expenditure incurred by the Government of India on Baroda Station of

All India Radio during the last three years has been:—

Year	Expenditure in lakhs of Rupees
1949-50	3·18
1950-51	3·29
1951-52	3·13

Expenditure for the year 1952-53 is estimated at Rs. 3.40 lakhs.

PIG IRON

140. Shri C. R. Chowdary: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual production of pig iron in India since 1948;

(b) the total annual exports of pig iron since 1948 and the countries to which exports have taken place;

(c) the amount of pig iron consumed in India and the total annual demand by Indian industry since 1948;

(d) whether there has been a decline in exports of pig iron recently and if so, why; and

(e) the average annual price of pig iron in India and the export prices since 1948?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c) and (e). Four statements are laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 54]

(d) Yes, Sir. Until recently the Indian foundries used to consume only graded pig iron, the off-grade pig iron being mainly exported as being unsuitable for use. With the continuing shortage of pig iron and with improvements in technique, their consumption of off-grade pig iron has gone up and exports have consequently declined.

RUBBER TYRES (IMPORT)

141. Sardar Hukam Singh: (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether any licences for import of rubber tyres from foreign countries were issued to dealers during the last twelve months?

(b) If so, what was the value of the imports and the types of tyres imported?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 19,71,021 (for 12 months ending July 1952). This excludes the value of tractor and off-the-road tyres. Figures of actual imports of these items are not available.

The types of tyres imported were: pneumatic motor covers, pneumatic motor-cycle covers, pneumatic cycle covers, solid rubber tyres for motor vehicles and tractor and off-the-road tyres. Only those types and sizes of tyres which are not manufactured in India were imported.

TRADE WITH AUSTRIA

142. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of goods so far imported from Austria during the current financial year; and

(b) the total value of goods exported to that country during the corresponding period?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Rs. 19,77,803 upto June 1952.

(b) Rs. 11,87,276.

FRUIT TRADE WITH PAKISTAN

143. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Pakistan has imposed heavy restrictions on the wholesale fruit trade of India with Pakistan?

(b) What was the annual amount of export of fruit to Pakistan from India specially from Delhi before this restriction?

(c) What was the annual amount and valuation of fruits, fresh and dry that we imported from Pakistan, and what is the position now in that respect?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Import of fruits from India was covered by an Open General Licence which has expired and was also duty free. No imports can now be made unless the Pakistan Government grant licences. In addition, a duty of customs at the following rates is payable:—

Fruits, all sorts, fresh, dried, salted or preserved, not otherwise specified.	36%	*ad*	*valorem*
Dried figs . .	32%	"	"
Sultanas . .	30%	"	"
Filbert in the shell	32%	"	"
Apples, pears, prunes and grapes Fresh. . . .	30%	"	"
Currants . . .	Re. 1	per	cwt.

(b) Exports of fruits during 1951-52 were about Rs. 3 crores of which nearly half was from Delhi area.

(c) Attention is invited to reply to part (d) of Starred Question No. 47 answered on the 5th November, 1952.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (STAFF)

144. Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) the respective numbers of Gazetted and non-gazetted officers, clerks, and Class IV employees in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on—

(i) 15th August, 1947;
(ii) 31st March, 1950;
(iii) 31st March, 1951; and
(iv) 31st March, 1952;

(b) the numbers (separately) of the various categories of Government employees in the Ministry that were temporarily appointed at the first instance, and subsequently (i) made permanent; (ii) retired; and (iii) discharged or retrenched during each of the post-partition years; and

(c) whether any compensation had been paid to those who had been retrenched or compulsorily retired and if so, what?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 55].

(b) and (c). Information is being collected.

DHOTIES AND SAREES

145. Shri Bansal: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the production in yards separately of *dhoties* and *sarees* by the mills in India in the years 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951 and the first half of 1952;

(b) the production of *dhoties* and *sarees* by power looms during the above years; and

(c) the production of *dhoties* and *sarees* by hand-looms during the above years?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). This information is not available as the Government does not exercise any control over the production and distribution of the cloth manufactured by powerlooms and handlooms.

STATEMENT

(Figures in million yards)

Year	Dhoties	Sarees
1948	Not available	
1949	644	441
1950	299	337
1951	751	358
1952 (Jan. to June)	391	290

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL

146. Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the import duty on copra and coconut oil in the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53; and

(b) the total amount of copra and coconut oil imported into India and their total prices in the years 1950-51, 1951-52, and in the first half of 1952-53?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Two statements are laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 56]

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS UNDER LICENSING SYSTEM

147. Shri Jhunjhunwala: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of commodities (i) imported and (ii) exported, under licence system in the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) how much of the above (i) import and (ii) export, was through established dealers and how much through new comers (export and import figures to be given separately);

(c) why preference is given to established dealers; and

(d) what is the principle behind it?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Imports and Exports figures are furnished in the publications issued by Government from time to time indicating sea-borne trade etc., The collection of the information called for will entail an enormous amount of labour and time which cannot be justified by the results obtained.

(c) and (d). Licences are largely issued to established shippers or importers because such dealers are established in the line and may be depended upon to handle business under competitive conditions; and maintain confidence in overseas markets

DHOTIES AND SAREES

148. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of *saris* and *dhoties* (in pairs) by textile mills and hand-looms in 1951-52;

(b) the total production of other varieties of cloth by textile mills and hand-looms during the same period;

(c) the number of textile mills and hand-looms working in India in 1951-52;

(d) the total export and import of cloth in 1951-52; and

(e) the total consumption in the country in 1951-52?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 57]

MANUFACTURE OF TYPEWRITERS

149. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether the U.S.A. firm established in India for undertaking manufacture work of typewriters in India has started work?

(b) If so, in what part of India are the headquarters of the firm situated?

(c) What are the terms and conditions under which the firm has agreed to commence work in India?

(d) Will the firm also undertake to manufacture typewriters of *Rastrabasha* script?

(e) Will the firm manufacture typewriters in other Indian languages and if so, which are they?

(f) What is the annual production target of the firm?

(g) How long will it take to reach full production capacity?

(h) What is the financial and other assistance, if any, which Government have agreed to give to the firm?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Calcutta.

(c) The firm came up with a request for approval of a scheme for manufacture of typewriters which the Government have given after careful examination. Their scheme envisages manufacture of 90 per cent. of a typewriter by 1956.

(d) and (e). Government have no information.

(f) 20,000 typewriters to be increased to 25,000, if necessary

(g) By 1956.

(h) Government have not agreed to give any financial assistance to the firm. They will, however, be given all reasonable facilities in the matter of transport, import of plant and machinery, raw materials etc. subject to the availability of foreign exchange.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (STAFF)

150. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the respective numbers of Gazetted, non-gazetted, clerical and class IV staff in the Ministry of External Affairs as on—

(i) 15th August, 1947;

(ii) 31st March, 1950;

(iii) 31st March, 1951; and

(iv) 31st March, 1952; and

(b) whether any compensation had been paid to those who had been retrenched or compulsorily retired and if so, what?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The required information is given below:—

Date	Number of		
	Gazetted Officers	Non-Gazetted Officers	Class IV Staff
(i) 15th August, 1947	68	275	256
(ii) 31st March, 1950	103	560	301
(iii) 31st March, 1951	104	612	302
(iv) 31st March, 1952	110	607	302

(b) The retrenched staff were temporary and were given usual notice of termination of their services, or were granted one month's pay in lieu, in accordance with the rules. They were not entitled to any compensation. There has been no case of compulsory retirement in recent years.

EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM PAKISTAN

151. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of export to Pakistan in 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 of (i) coal; (ii) jute goods; (iii) textiles; and (iv) medicinal goods; and

(b) what are the imports from Pakistan to India during the same period of (i) raw jute; (ii) raw cotton; (iii) betelnut; and (iv) fish?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information required is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 58]

VERIFICATION OF CLAIMS

152. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state whether the verification of urban and rural house property claims of displaced persons from West Pakistan has been completed?

(b) Are there any claims that still remain to be verified?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) and (b). Barring a few thousand claims, still pending decision for special reasons, other such claims have been verified.

MONITORING SERVICES AT SIMLA

153. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state whether the monitoring services at Simla cover all broadcasts of foreign countries every day?

(b) What was the average coverage per day during 1952?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In the Monitoring Office, Simla, on an average about 80 broadcasts are covered each day.

PROGRAMME EVALUATION ORGANISATION

154. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) the personnel of the Directorate of the Programme Evaluation Organisation with their respective qualifications and scales of pay; and

(b) the agency through which the appointments were made and the conditions of service?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) Professor D. G. Karve has been appointed Director of the Programme Evaluation Organisation on a salary of Rs. 2,250 . A statement concerning his record of work and experience is placed on the Table of the of Rs. 2,250. A statement concern- No. 59]

(b) The staff of the Programme Evaluation Organization will be recruited, in accordance with general procedure, through the Union Public Service Commission.

RIHAND BUND PROJECT

155. **Shri Rup Narain:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are considering the question of taking over the construction of Rihand Bund in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh under the scheme of the Five Year Plan; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the causes for the same?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) and (b). The Rihand Dam Project is being included in the Five-Year Plan.

BAN ON IMPORT OF INDIAN FILMS INTO PAKISTAN

155-A. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a P.T.I. message from Karachi dated 29th October, 1952 and published in the Indian Press on the 30th October, 1952 that Pakistan Government has decided to stop the import of Indian Films into Western Pakistan with immediate effect, and that the import of Indian Films into East Pakistan was to continue for a short period, but ultimately Indian Films would be banned in the Eastern Wing of the country also;

(b) whether after imposing a ban on import of betel-leaf (*pan*) and bananas recently, Pakistan Government has stopped import of any other article from India into Pakistan;

(c) whether Government have received a telegram from Indian Motion Pictures Producers' Association, demanding the enforcement of a total and immediate ban on the import of Pakistan Films into India and also recommending that the certification of Pakistan Films should be completely stopped; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. I would invite in this connection the Member's attention to the answer given by me on the floor of the House to Part (a) of Starred Question No. 47 by Shri Gidwani on the 5th November, 1952.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise because the Government of Pakistan have not banned the import of Indian films.

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

Acc. No. ......
Dated 20.11.2014

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 18th November, 1952

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWRES

(*See Part* I)

12 NOON.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have to announce that under sub-rule (1) of Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, the following members will form the Committee on Petitions:

(1) Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Chairman).
(2) Shrimati Renu Chakravartty.
(3) Shri Asim Krishna Dutt.
(4) Prof. C. P. Mathew.
(5) Shri P. N. Rajabhoj.

INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

> "That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I introduce* the Bill.

An Hon. Member: The same Bill is withdrawn and then introduced!

Mr. Speaker: The matter is clear from the agenda. He is withdrawing one Bill and introducing another. Members are supposed to have the intelligence to understand the procedure.

PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF BOOKS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. Katju: I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar (Tirupati): I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

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* Introduced with the previous sanction of the President.

MOTION *RE* FOOD SITUATION
Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai on the 17th November, 1952, namely:

> "That the food situation be taken into consideration."

Along with this, there is also the consideration of the amendments which are printed and circulated to Members.

Shri Barman (North Bengal—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Sir, at the very outset I must state that I am in full agreement with the new policy that has been announced by the hon. Food Minister yesterday. These changes in the administration of controls, though they may seem to be simple, would go a long way to remove further recourse to control. One of the changes announced yesterday is that there would be no restriction on the movement of grains, whatever these cereals may be, within a State. I would like to show how this policy of restriction on movement has been operating, and for this purpose I would take the help of the very statements that have been supplied by the Food Ministry. If we refer to the prices that were ruling since 1947 up to the first week of November, 1952, so far as West Bengal is concerned, it will at once be evident that in the same State of West Bengal while the price of rice—I am referring to the year 1952—in the Sub-division of Contai varied from Rs. 16 to 23, in the district of Cooch-Behar of the same State in the same year the fluctuation was between Rs. 30 and Rs. 35. That is to say, while the people of one part were getting rice at Rs. 16, it cost the people of another part of the State as much as Rs. 35. What I want to point out is that this was an absolutely unsatisfactory position and the people who had to purchase food at double the price prevailing in some other part were very much dissatisfied. I hope that with the removal of internal movement restrictions, this wide disparity will go and prices of rice and other foodgrains within the same State will find some economic level.

I would like to mention in this connection that the northern areas of West Bengal are completely cut off from the Southern part and there is absolutely no chance of grains of the northern districts being smuggled into the industrial areas of Calcutta which are not only far off, but also cut off by Pakistan.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Let us consider the prices obtaining at Barasat within the district of Twenty-Four Parganas contiguous to Calcutta. While the people of Calcutta were getting rice at Rs. 17 per maund, the price ruling in the adjacent part of Calcutta ranged between Rs. 30 to 41. In this case also the people of Barasat had to pay almost double the price. What does it indicate? It indicates and the Food Minister himself had admitted it some time back that about 5,000 to 6,000 maunds of rice were being smuggled into the city of Calcutta from the neighbouring areas. Two things are to be seen in this connection. It is the city of Calcutta which is the nerve centre of police administration in the State. Calcutta is a statutorily rationed area. Even with a large police force and the vigilance which the State Government could exercise, it was not possible for the Government to enforce the control, because it was helpless in the face of the economic forces which were operating. Now, what is the use of keeping such inter-district restrictions within the State? It is not only undesirable but also ineffective and leads to large-scale corruption as in the case of Calcutta *vis-a-vis* Barasat Sub-division. So, it is a welcome move on the part of Government that this internal movement is being done away with from the 1st of January, 1953.

In this connection I would invite the attention of the hon. Food Minister that he has taken the responsibility upon himself to feed Greater Calcutta. When that is so there will be very little necessity for control on a large scale in the other districts of West Bengal. But I should mention one important point in this connection. The rationed people of Calcutta were consuming about six lakh tons of cereals. If these restrictions of the statutory rationed area are going to be enforced strictly and effectively, six lakhs tons will not suffice for Calcutta: something more will have to be provided for that area. Otherwise there will be some dislocation of arrangement.

The second modification in the administration of controls is that any State requiring any millets or coarser grains will be permitted to purchase them in any other State which is surplus. On the floor of this House, sometime ago Chaudhuri Ranbir Singh complained bitterly that though in his part of the country (Rohtak) there was enough gram and it could not be sold even at Rs. six or seven per maund, there was large scale necessity for it in other parts of India. But because of this restriction, the people of Rohtak or the agriculturists of Rohtak were not getting proper price according to their standards; they had no incentive to grow more. Besides those people who would be satisfied with gram in other parts of India because of their economic circumstances, were rather forced to use finer grains at higher prices and thus their economic stability was disturbed to that extent. So, this modification of administrative policy is also welcome.

In this connection, Sir, I would also like to refer to a statement made on the floor of the House by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava that the rationing policy was causing some dissatisfaction to some people. He stated that in the Punjab, people were not willing to take rice; they liked wheat rations but because of the control and the rationing system, they had to take rice, while in other parts of the country which are rice-eating, as for example, West Bengal, people could not be persuaded to take to wheat. So this sort of maladjustment of diet of people happens under the controls. But it cannot be helped so long as it is necessary.

So, both these administrative changes in the control administration are quite welcome. I would in this connection wish to state that if gradually we could decontrol the coarser grains, the prices of finer grains will automatically fall. We had such an experience in 1942 in the Punjab. When the Japanese entered the war and there was scarcity of food-grains and prices of food-grains began to rise, the Punjab Government found that grains were not coming to the Lahore market, in spite of the fact that there was enough food stocks. So they decontrolled wheat. At once within a month the price of wheat went up three times, but after reaching that level it began to come down and found its economic level at double the original price. I think the control price was Rs. seven and it stabilised at Rs. 14 ultimately and there was plenty of wheat in the Lahore market. The inference is this that when the price of a commodity is decontrolled it suddenly shoots up. But if there are other substitutes available at a lower price, people according to their economic standards take to them—people who cannot afford to purchase finer grains at higher prices take to coarser grains —and the pressure on finer grains reduces itself. And thus there is some adjustment amongst the prices of different kinds of grains. What I want to say is, that we should begin with decontrolling the coarser grains and then gradually we should take to the control of the finer grains.

I think that the Government is removing a great hardship by the policy of decontrol and I hope that the whole country will welcome it.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, I have hesitated to intervene in this debate because I wanted hon. Members to have as much time as possible to discuss this most important matter. My colleague the Food Minister will reply to the debate fully later on. Yesterday my colleague the Finance Minister gave a very lucid analysis of the situation and made clear what the basic policy of Government was. He spoke not only on behalf of Government but also of the Planning Commission—not that the two are separate from each other or are in opposition to each other—nevertheless he spoke with authority on the part of both, of Government and the Planning Commission of which he has to bear a considerable burden. Yet I decided to speak, to say a few words, because there has been in the recent past some confusion in the public mind on this issue, and many things have been said which appear to me to have no justification whatever, that is in so far as the Government is concerned. And that was one reason why I welcomed this debate in this House. When I was asked earlier in this session if we would have a debate, probably the hon. Member who put me that question was under the impression that some big changes were under contemplation. In fact he asked me if big changes would be introduced and the debate will take place afterwards—a kind of *post-mortem*—or before. As a matter of fact, as the House will realize, no change in policy was intended or is suggested. Certain changes are certainly suggested, but they have nothing to do with the basic policy that Government has attempted to follow and intends to pursue in future. But this confusion was caused and some of our friends in the newspapers gave big headlines and imagined many things which did not exist.

Now, this question of food has been one of our most difficult questions during the last few years, and I suppose the Food Ministry, whoever has been the incumbent of it, has had to face very difficult problems, as the House knows. We have all, of course, shared, that is the Government and the Cabinet have shared to some extent in the burdens that the Food Ministry carried, but ultimately it had to be carried by the Food Minister of the day. We have, I suppose, in the course of the past few years made mistakes. We try to profit by them. It has been an exceedingly difficult situation. On the whole we are somewhat better off; we are in a somewhat more favourable situation. Of course the favourable situation is not so much due merely to Government policy; it

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is due to other factors also. But naturally to some extent I think we are justified in saying that it is to that extent a result of Government policy also. And I should like in this connection to pay my tribute to my colleague, the Food Minister who has approached this very difficult and complicated subject with an energy and a vitality and an awareness which, I think, have produced certain results all over the country.

Now, I do not propose to go into any detailed analysis of figures. The House has had perhaps a fair dose of them already. But what is necessary is for us not to get lost, not to forget the wood for the trees. In such a debate each hon. Member is naturally concerned more with the particular situation that exists in his State or his particular area. And it is right that he should lay stress upon it. Nevertheless, the most important thing is that we should keep this whole picture of India, this whole question of food as a whole, and to remember what our basic policy is.

The House can discuss, of course, the basic policy. So far as we are concerned, no question has arisen to discuss it or to change it. And so far as we can see, no question is likely to arise when we should change that basic policy. I would add that however much you may vary, however much you may bring relaxations or adjustments here and there, that basic approach will continue even though the food position may be much better. I might even go so far as to look into the future somewhat and say that instead of our being deficit in food as we are as present—at least to some extent we are, or at any rate (although statistics apparently differ even about that) let us presume that we are deficit in food, but I would go a step further and say that—if we are clearly and demonstrably surplus in food, even then the basic approach would continue. You may change the method of approach, you may change many things, but the basic approach will have to continue, I think.

Why do I say so? Well, my colleague the Finance Minister referred of course to the inter-connection with planning. That is there. I put it in a more homely way: it is a kind of house-keeping for the nation. Now, we are not going to give up house-keeping for the nation and leave it to all kinds of odd forces even though we might be better off. Of course, if the method of house-keeping is wrong —we have to improve the method. But in regard to food supply and in regard to other necessaries of life, if we are to plan we have to look after this house-keeping for the entire community. We have not merely to see, first of all, that there is a fair distribution, that some people do not suffer at the cost of others and so on and so forth, but we have to see also—there is an aspect of it—that we get the best out of it for our development and planning programmes. That is to say, suppose we become a surplus nation in food. Well, we would not like all our surplus to be, in a sense, not used to the best advantage. We would of course like better feeding, etc., but, if I may say so with all respect, even that with some limitations. Because, the pressure on us for development is so great and we want to develop the country, we would like to use some of the surplus we get for export, if necessary—there is no question of export now; I am merely putting the argument before the House—so as to get more capacity for importing essential goods like machinery, or whatever it may be. Perhaps the House may remember that many years ago, about twenty years ago or slightly less, in Germany there was a phrase which become rather notorious: guns *versus* butter. That is, the Nazi Germany of the day said they preferred guns to butter; they would rather do away with butter, export it, get money for it so that they could get guns. Well, we are not interested in guns that way, and we are not going to give up butter for guns, too.

We might have to give up butter for something more useful for our economic development. In regard to development I think the country should realise that we should be prepared to tighten our belt here and there even though we may possess the thing necessary in order to get something more necessary, something quite vital for future growth. Of course there are limitations to that. We want the entire community to have adequate food, healthy food, and we must provide for that, but I see no reason why we should waste food and allow circumstances to flourish which involve wastage of food and all that, or something which may not be absolute waste. Therefore all this requires careful house-keeping. Now it is a difficult matter, I suppose at least for some of us, even to be in charge of our own house-keeping, and to think about house-keeping of the entire nation becomes a very intricate and a very difficult matter; but the principle remains that we must house-keep for the nation and the basic issue before the House therefore is whether we can entrust these vital and important matters to what is called free enterprise and an absolutely free market. The whole conception of free enterprise and an absolutely free market is today out of date. It goes out of control. Things happen and in a country like India where our resources are limited, where we have to spread them out, we cannot allow this business of free enterprise and an absolutely free market. That again does not mean that there is no free market left for anything. Inevitably we have to control strategic points so that we may control the basic economic situation in the country. That applies to food Now I am not prepared to say that there should be no free market in food Certainly there might be. I am not prepared to say that this particular control elsewhere should not be relaxed. It may be. It depends on circumstances. Let us discuss them. I am prepared to say we must keep the tightest grip of the situation in regard to food and as regards other matters we must always be in a position to control the situation. How can we do that? It is a matter of circumstances and factual data. I may give the House a military parallel. An Army controls an area or a State. He would be a foolish General who spreads his army in every village and every part of it to control every independent individual there. He cannot really control the situation as effectively as if he controls the strategic points. He has a firm grip on them. He can swoop down on any place when any untoward incidents take place. He is in complete control of the situation and yet it is really that he controls the strategic points. What the strategic points are is a question to be considered. But the point is that the strategic points have to be controlled and we cannot allow forces, very important forces to be set in motion which will upset our basic policy, upset our basic policy of proper food distribution, etc. So, I wish the House to appreciate fully that now and later even though there might be—and, as I hope, there will be—a continuing improvement in the food situation, I cannot base any policy on a hope. I must base a policy on the possibility or even the probability of untoward contingencies and we cannot obviously build up a firm policy hoping for a good harvest for all the time. Take Pakistan. Pakistan flourished like the green bay tree in regard to food for three years or more. Then prices shot up because of the Korean war and they made lots of money and very unfavourable comparisons were made between India and Pakistan in regard to the food situation. It is not for me to criticise their policy. I do not know the details but it is obvious that one bad season has upset them completely this year. They have had a bad time in regard to food; and here is a country which is surplus in food suddenly becoming deficit and having to go to the extreme course of bringing food from the far corners of the earth. Therefore we cannot base any policy on hopes. Let us by all means work up to realise that. We have to base a policy expecting that untoward occurrences will take place. I go a step further. Even if we are fairly satisfied that our hopes will be realised, that circumstances are better and will be better, even then we cannot let go of the strategic points from every point of view. I would like to make it clear therefore that strategic controls over the food situation must remain.

The only other question that is to be considered is the application of those strategic controls or the relaxation from time to time of non-strategic controls. It really is a detail although it is a very important detail and one has to see whether that does not affect the strategic control somewhere. Now, again, it does not necessarily follow that any absolutely uniform policy is essential or necessary for the whole country. Conditions vary in different States and one has to adapt oneself to those circumstances keeping in view that basic thing. The basic approach is the same but the implementation of that basic approach in any part of the country, in any State, may vary, may differ due to so many conditions. That has to be remembered because I find that there is a slight confusion in the basic approach, of its particular implementation in a particular area or State. That implementation will depend on so many factors which are peculiar to a State, more especially on the food situation, but some other factors too have to be considered. Then again while you have these strategic controls, if you spread them out too much, as in the case of military control, it means less control. I am talking in terms of military analogy. A spread-out army is a weak army. It is not controlling the situation. Therefore look at that from this point of view. I heard the other day that in one State the Government was proceeding against a large number of, I think it was 15,000 young men, boys, for the pettiest offences of carrying a handful of rice or wheat from here to there. It was an offence. Now when a State spends all its energies in catching little boys, there is something wrong in the method of approach. There is nothing wrong in the controls. That is a different thing.

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but there is something wrong in the energy being spent while probably the major offenders get away. It is far better to impose some kind of procedure which, if I may repeat here again, gives you control over the strategic points, and not to catch hold of every boy and girl for technical breaches. Now, if the proposal that has been placed before the House, with this small provision added, that head-loads will be free of movement—head-loads are obviously not going to change the general food position in the country.......

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): Whether head-loads of all grains will be free of restrictions, or only millets?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This applies to millets only. However much people may carry in head-loads, that cannot much affect the major situation. It is a nuisance if you think of it. After all, we talk of this State and that State. There is a tendency for each State to consider itself as something apart from the rest. But, the poor men who live in the borders of the States have possibly no such distinctive feeling. They may have their relatives on the other side; they may have their land on the other side; the nearest market may be on the other side of the border and it will be natural for them to go there. So, the less we upset the normal functions on the border, the better. It is a needless burden and a most harassing situation is created without any effect on the basic economy that you are trying to pursue. You may utilise that analogy elsewhere. In that sense, if you relax the controls here and there, it is worth while provided it does not affect your basic control of the situation. You can examine this from time to time and see how far, in view of the situation, you can adjust yourself or relax something here or there, always remembering that the basic policy to be pursued remains the same and has to remain the same.

We are not dealing at the present moment with rice and wheat. It must be made perfectly clear that this has nothing to do with rice or wheat where the situation remains exactly where it was. We are dealing with millets. Millets form a fairly considerable part of our food consumption, about 40 per cent. or thereabout. Whatever that may be, nevertheless, millets, normally, have been produced for local consumption. A large part of the millets are consumed locally. Movement of millets has been much less than the movement of rice and wheat, and it has not affected the situation so much as the movement of rice and wheat does. Although forming 40 per cent. of our food consumption,—I speak subject to correction—actually, within the rationing system, only about eight per cent. came in.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Only seven per cent. was procured.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am merely saying that any step that we may take, we should examine from the point of view of the effect of that step on the general situation, and on the rice or wheat situation. As far as one can see, the millet situation does affect, but does not affect very much. If you go a step further and if, as is proposed, you maintain State barriers for millets, and there is only internal freedom of movement, and you only allow one State Government to purchase from the other State Government, you are really maintaining quite a great deal of control even on the millet situation, although the millet situation by itself does not affect very largely the entire situation. It does affect somewhat, but it does not affect as much as wheat or rice, though it forms 40 per cent of our food consumption. Even that you are controlling. So that, step that we are taking, from the point of view of the larger policy, appears to be a fairly safe step. At the same time, it removes a good deal of petty troubles and petty harassment. It allows us to see how things develop and if they do not develop rightly, it is always open to us to go back and do something else. I suggest to the House that that is the proper approach to the question. I believe there is one amendment that has been put in, to the effect: accepting and approving of the general policy of controls, but accepting also adjustments or modifications keeping in view that basic policy. The amendment runs thus:

> "and having considered the same, this House approves of the policy of Government regarding general control of food grains and welcomes the desire of the Government to adjust the same to suit local or temporary conditions without prejudice to the basic objectives."

I think that amendment represents correctly the position of the Government.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Is the latter part of the amendment necessary, because, control, by implication will mean all that.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is a question of wording. I did not draft this amendment. I should like it as it is. It is good enough. It may have been slightly differently worded. That is immaterial. The main thing is, I should like the House to lay stress that the basic fact of controlling the food grains remains. At the same time, recognising that our approach is not merely a doctrinaire approach, which has no relation to changing facts and changing situations, an approach which merely harasses people without producing results, we adjust it from time to time, always keeping that basic thing in view.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: (Nabadwip): May I ask for some clarification, Sir? The hon. Prime Minister has explained the effect of the continuance of this new scheme. I want to know whether the policy that is going to be pursued from now onwards, will have some salutary effect on the general consumers. You know, at the moment, in the whole of India, the total rationed population is about twelve per cent. The rest *i.e.* 88 per cent. are not under rationing. In the case of State Governments their Food Ministers feel that if they can meet the statutory requirements, their work is over. For instance, in the city of Calcutta rice is sold at Rs. 17/8/- a maund. Ten miles outside Calcutta, or in the district from which I come, for the last six months, price of rice have been ranging between Rs. 30 and 38. The purchasing power in the city of Calcutta is much higher than in the rural areas. The general thing is, the Government always thinks in terms of the statutory requirements, as necessitated by statutory rationing. As was pointed out to the hon. Mr. Kidwai, take for instance, Bihar, Jamshedpur is rationed. The coal field area is also rationed. Elsewhere, where there is free movement of grains, they somehow get them at cheaper rates. In West Bengal, for instance, Calcutta and other industrial areas, such as Darjeeling, Asansol, Kalimpong, etc. are areas under statutory rationing. In the rest of the places, 88 per cent. of the population, has to pay more throughout the year much more—sometimes twice the price in the rationed area—excuse me, for the strong language, but I am not speaking perfervid language. You can have it verified any time you like. Even today, prices range about Rs. 30.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): There is no rationing?

Pandit L. K. Maitra: Sometimes there is a sort of modified rationing. Sometimes people of these areas get some foodstuffs at controlled rates. Normally, that is not the case. There are classifications of consumers and a certain limited percentage only gets the benefit under modified rationing. Under the present scheme, as propounded by the hon. Prime Minister, elucidating the position after other Ministers and Mr. Kidwai have spoken, I am not clear in my mind whether the common man who is not fortunate enough to live in Calcutta with a higher purchasing power, or in Bombay, whether the common man living within 20 or 15 miles away from Calcutta or their cordoned off rationed areas, is going to benefit by it. High hopes were raised that if these internal barriers were lifted, and sufficient buffer stocks rushed, prices would go down. (*Interruption*).

Shri Bansal (Jhajjar-Rewari): Is it a speech or a point or order?

Pandit L. K. Maitra: It is only seeking clarification. Why are you worried? The Chair is there. I was just asking, Sir, whether it would be possible for him to throw light on it. If it is a speech, I cannot help it.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think that the point mentioned by my hon. friend, Pandit L. K. Maitra, is very important, and must be borne in mind. We cannot just function by thinking in terms of ten or fifteen per cent. of the population, forgetting the others. Well, among the others, there are a large number of those who are food producers. The real difficulty comes in in the case of the others who are neither food producers, nor city dwellers or dwellers in rationed areas. They get into these difficulties. Any policy that we frame must keep that in mind, *i.e.*, to keep the price down for these people too. Obviously, the point suggested by the hon. Member has to be borne in mind. How it is to be worked out, of course, is a different matter. In fact, suppose there is internal free movement of millets in the States, that itself, so far as millets are concerned, will probably equalise things. The other points also must be taken into account, but my main point was that essentially control must remain because, after all, what are we working for? We are working for a steady and, as quick as possible, reduction of imports of foodstuffs from outside by growing more in our own country, and by better distribution of it.

Hon. Member Dr. Lanka Sundaram yesterday reminded me of a statement I made—not a statement, but repeated statements—three years ago,

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

I think, it was, to the effect that we must put an end to food imports by 1952—March or April, 1952. I said that, I think, in 1950 or 1949—I forget when—and when I made that statement, I did so with all honesty of purpose, and with every intention that we should try our best, but I regret that my words were falsified, and I felt thoroughly ashamed of myself for having made that kind of, almost, a pledge to the country and therefore. I am very much averse to making any definite statement or pledge now (*laughter*).

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): An occasion for experiment?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : But I do not see why I should not say that we intend making every effort to reduce these food imports, and, if possible, within the period of the plan, put an end to them, except in a very grave emergency. That is our intention, and statistics, as they appear now, give us some hope that is a feasible proposition. That is all I can say.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: Have you got any idea of progressive decontrol?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: When you say "progressive decontrol", I would say "progressive adjustments", but always the full strategy, particularly strategic positions, must remain in control: otherwise, you can only progress round about the outskirts.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I seek another clarification, Sir? The Food Minister, in his speech, criticised the procurement system both in north and south India. Do the Government have in contemplation an over-all revision of the procurement system, because in the rural parts, control means procurement. In the deficit States, control means procurement. I recognise there is necessity for retaining some sort of procurement, so long as controls are there, so long as the Government is under statutory obligation to feed a certain part of the population. But my specific point is whether there is going to be an over-all revision of the procurement system?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think it was made clear—the Finance Minister also made it clear—that any attempt to have uniformity all over is very difficult, and I think it is undesirable to have the same method everywhere. The conditions are different, and after all, we have to work through the State Governments, and it is largely for the State Governments to consider and decide. There is no doubt that procurement must continue. I would go a step further. It is perhaps not quite self-contradictory to say that even if we have no control, we require procurement. We must keep enough stocks in our hands. We must supply stocks to the deficit areas. There are obviously deficit areas in the country. Conditions have improved generally, but, for instance, the State of Madras has been peculiarly unfortunate year after year, and the situation there is bad at the present moment—bad in the sense there has been no rain again, and they have to go through the next few months, and we have to face that. Some of the Karnatak districts, and some other areas of India, are deficit areas. They have not been having rain or something has happened. We have to supply them. Where are you going to supply from? Obviously, either from purchases abroad, or procurement locally. We want to restrict food imports from abroad. Anyhow, we cannot buy everything from abroad. Procurement has to continue and stocks have to be got, whatever methods of local control there might be. It is a matter of adjustment and suitability.

Shri S. S. More *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Food Minister will reply at the end, and will answer all the questions put to him.

Shri Bansal: I am sure this House will be thankful to the hon. Leader of the House for taking out this debate from the confusion into which it was inevitably led yesterday. It is not a discussion between control and decontrol. It is a discussion as to what types of controls are necessary for our developmental economy. I take my stand in this House four-square on a developmental economy, and I was happy to hear from the Finance Minister yesterday that he was in favour of embarking on a developmental programme where controls would become necessary. I hope, Sir, he will keep to his word and increase investments to the extent that controls will become necessary.

But, what type of control? When we discuss controls, we cannot discuss them in a vacuum. After all, what is the type of control that we have got used to? These controls were not devised for a developmental economy. They were devised to meet a situation created by war-time contingencies. And in my opinion we will have to examine the balance sheet of these controls in a dispassionate manner very carefully as to whether these controls are going to help us in our developmental economy.

I have here before me certain figures. I will not call them statistics, because I am not a statistician. Ever since 1946, we have been importing foodstuffs in an ever-increasing quantity. This has been one aspect of the controls. Now, up to date, my figures tell me that nearly Rs. 900 crores—more than Rs. 900 crores—have been spent on importing foodgrains from abroad. What does it imply? This is 75 per cent. of our total outlay on our entire developmental schemes—75 per cent. of our financial resources. If in future also we go on importing foodstuffs in such huge quantities, what will become of our plans I shudder to think.

The second aspect of these controls has been that we have been maintaining them at the cost of ever-increasing subsidy. I have here also before me figures of subsidy. In 1946-47 we spent more than Rs. 22 crores on subsidy. In the next year, we spent nearly Rs. 17 crores. Then,

1948-49	Rs. 26·93 crores.
1949-50	21·15 crores.
1950-51	15·32 crores.
1951-52	57·63 crores.

And for 1952-53, the estimated figure is Rs. 15 crores, but I do not know what it will come to because, besides this figure, there is going to be some huge figure on trading loss and some other account. This again means that on subsidy alone we have spent from 1946 till now, a sum of Rs. 175 crores. The hon. Finance Minister yesterday referred to a certain datum-line. I am one with him in the datum-line; I am also one with him on the red signals to which he referred. I think without these we cannot plan. But at what cost have we maintained this datum-line? We have spent Rs. 175 crores during the last six or seven years to maintain this datum-line. And in respect of how many persons? I shall give the figures for the year 1951 published by the Government. Our rationed population, statutorily rationed is 4·6 crores. If we divide this figure of Rs. 175 crores of food subsidy on the quantity of foodgrains which have been procured and imported—and that is the one which Government handles—it will be found that it comes to about ten per cent. and I doubt very much whether under non-statutory rationing, the entire benefit of subsidy was being given to the consumer. We shall have to take into consideration all these things, when we decide as to what sort of controls we will require. The organisation with which I am associated may cause a doubt in the minds of the hon. Finance Minister and certain other friends, that what I am saying is not without some mental reservations. As I have already stated, I stand for well-thought out controls at strategic points. In a note which I gave to the Planning Sub-committee of the Congress party, this is what I have said, and I stand by it. I have said that Government will also have to take action in the following directions *i.e.* instituting well-thought out controls at strategic points or essential consumer goods. And food is an essential consumer good. Then, the cost of controls has been rather a huge one on administration also.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): On a point of clarification. I am not quite clear whether the hon. Member's contention is that it is on account of controls that we had to import foodgrains.

Shri Bansal: It is not so.

Shri Gadgil: Not because of that; it was because there was shortage.

Shri Bansal: It is not so. I am not applying that argument in the case of controls..

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Or is it because of badly administered controls that we had to import?

Shri Bansal: I could not follow the Finance Minister. But what I say is that we have had to maintain these controls at these huge costs, and of course some of these things will have to be there as long as we remain in short supply—I do not deny that, and I understand it perfectly well—but the time has come when we must sit down and consider dispassionately whether we cannot do something by which we may be able to save on some of these huge costs. The hon. Minister of Planning yesterday was saying that we want to reduce our imports in the future. So far so good. But the House is not going to be so credulous as to believe that we will do without any imports of foodgains, because that kind of assurance has been made in the past and it has not kept.

Again Sir, I think these controls have not helped us in increasing production. Yesterday the hon. Finance Minister stated that there is no conclusive proof to show whether production has increased or decreased, as a result of these controls. But I submit that there are certain things which we cannot prove. We cannot prove whether controls have led to the in-

[Shri Bansal]

crease in production or not, but the net result is before our eyes, and we can see that ever since controls were introduced in this country, production has not increased. Take the case of certain industries; as soon as you relaxed controls, you find that the production had increased. Whether this argument will be applicable to agricultural commodities or not, I am not sure, but I do believe that controls have hindered and actually affected production in an adverse direction, and I certainly think they have affected the marketable surpluses. After all we are dealing here with marketable surpluses. In as much as lesser quantities of grains were coming in the open market, the net result was the same as that of a decrease in production.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I thought the hon. Member is now concluding

Shri Bansal: I have taken only about six minutes, and I have to take some more time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has taken ten minutes already, and will be given five more minutes. He can resume his speech in the afternoon.

The House will now stand adjourned till 2-30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The House re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Shri Bansal: Sir, when I was on my legs I was making out the point that these controls have not helped in increasing production. The other point that I want to make is that although these controls have helped in keeping the datum-line at a particular level in the sectors where there was strict food rationing and also perhaps in those sectors where there was non-statutory rationing, they have had no effect on prices in the large sector in our economy where there was no control at all. In fact from the figures that have been supplied to us it seems that the prices which were not controlled, *i.e.*, free market prices, were gradually rising.

So, Sir, this is the balance sheet of our controls as they have existed so far. Naturally faced with this situation early this year when this House met, a change in the food policy was initiated and the first...

Shri Velayudhan: There was no change.

Shri Bansal: Please listen. The first aspect of that change was that the Finance Minister removed the food subsidy. I remember, Sir, at that time a wave of relief passed throughout the country, and people began to think that something was going to happen now with regard to these out-moded and fossilised food controls. And then came the announcement that some sort of relaxation of controls was initiated in Madras. What was that relaxation, Sir? That relaxation was that certain chronically deficit areas were sealed off and a freer movement of foodgrains was made in those areas which were comfortable in regard to supply of certain essential foodgrains. Now, I remember that even that decision was very enthusiastically greeted in the whole country and the country began to look forward to an era of gradual decontrol.

Sir, as I have said in the very beginning, I am not for decontrol. I am all for controls at strategic points, but there will have to be some sort of a revision of our idea of these controls which, as I said to begin with, were initiated in our country on account of wartime exigencies. I have referred to certain aspects of our food control. What has been the other result of this food control? Sir, a mention of irksomeness of these controls was made in this House yesterday by my friend, Mr. T. N. Singh. The hon. the Leader of the House also made certain references to that kind of irksomeness. I come from Punjab which is a surplus area, but I remember during the election tour when I moved about in my constituency, if a peasent had two plots of land but they happened to be in two different *tehsils* he could not bring the produce from the one pocket to the other. Then, Sir, in villages there was no rationing, at least in my village there was no rationing at all. But there was no wheat available anywhere and for the month that I stayed there from time to time, I could not get any wheat to eat there, although in the neighbouring area there was some wheat available. Now, Sir, it is this kind of irksomeness of controls that has got to be mitigated and this third step which has been announced by the hon. the Food Minister yesterday only goes to this extent: that is, coarser foodgrains will now get slightly more freedom to move within the provincial boundaries. As far as the other deficit areas are concerned, they will be allowed to procure those grains from the surplus provinces. Now, Sir, I think it is a very reasonable step and we must all thank the hon. Food Minister for having taken it.

In the morning the Leader of the House gave us the impression that the policy which was now being initiated was not a question between control and decontrol. It is just a question of reorientation of our ideas of these food controls and I am sure the House will be in wholehearted agreement with him, and I, Sir, join my feeble and humble voice in congratulating the hon. the Food Minister in initiating that policy.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore). Sir..........................

Kumari Annie Mascarene (Trivandrum): I rise on a point of order, Sir. The Prime Minister this morning compared food controls with house-keeping. We are authorities on this subject. Why don't you give us a chance?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Hazaribagh West): Yes, yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has not yet come to the position when she can confidently say so (*laughter*).

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I wish to contradict that point. Do you want any special position to cook?

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Sir, it is very good of the Government to have initiated this discussion in this House. Evidently they have postponed discussion with the Ministers of States with a view to see that this discussion takes place in this House and a sort of lead is given to the States also on this subject. We have realised within the last five months that a practical approach to the problem has been made both at the Centre by the hon. Mr. Kidwai and in the States also, especially in Madras, where the experiment of decontrol has been tried recently. You know, Sir, within the last five months the names of 'Kidwai' and 'Rajagopalachari' are household words in Madras State. That is an indication of how well this decontrol has been received in the province.

Yesterday reference was made to the statistics that have been placed on the Table of the House. A perusal of these will show that the vast difference between the controlled prices and black-market prices in deficit areas has been very much reduced. After the decontrol we would observe that there has been a very surprising adjustment between the deficit areas and the surplus areas. For instance, in Vizagapatam which is a deficit zone the black-market price in 1951 was Rs. 50 per maund and in the last three or four months it has come down to Rs. 23. Similarly in other deficit areas; in Bellary from Rs. 45 it has come down to Rs. 28. For Madanapalle the figures are not available here. In the surplus areas we find the appreciation of the prices has not been very much, so much so that now in both the deficit and surplus areas the price level has more or less become the same. It ranges between Rs. 20 and Rs. 23. That shows how well the adjustment of food prices has been made by the proper trade channels, however, quickly it might be. It is very unfortunate, Sir, that on the floor of this House there are three hon. Ministers of the Cabinet speaking on the same subject with three different voices.

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): I regret very much that I have to interrupt again. There is no contradiction.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I quite agree with the hon. Minister of Planning that there has been no contradiction, but all the same, there has been enough confusion. But in Madras, if one thing had been done, there would have been less confusion even there. I mean to say that if the de-control had been started just at the harvest time, namely, from the month of December to March, or April, even this disparity would not have been found. But, having started it late, there was a little confusion for the first one or two months and things have adjusted themselves wonderfully well and within the last two or three days I have seen a press note that in Tadepalligudam, which is one of the biggest exporting centres from the rice-growing area, the prices have begun to fall. That shows how price adjustment is going on regularly and consistently. If there has been some disparity in prices between 1947 and 1952, it is not due to the black-marketing conditions alone. In the province, from 1947 to 1952, there has been a regular increase in the procurement price itself. So, if you compare the 1947 prices with 1952 prices, the gap has considerably been filled up by the procurement prices offered by the Government itself from time to time. There has been an increase not only in the price offered for procurement by the Government itself, but there has also been a surcharge on rice procured at the rate of Rs. 1/5/- per

[Shri Ramachandra Reddi]

maund. That has increased the price for the consumer. And so many other factors have been brought to play between the producer and the consumer so much so the price level had to go up. At every stage there was one impediment or the other, the licensed procuring agent, the mill-owner, the wholesale dealer, the retail dealer. At every stage there is the sale-tax operating, so much so the price level had necessarily to go up. It is not due entirely to the black marketing conditions there. Even before 1947, the producer was getting only 50 per cent. of the consumer's price. It is very well reported in the Rice Report of the Government of India, which was published some years back. The conditions have not changed with the introduction of procurement rules and the control methods. With the introduction of the procurement and control methods, a number of middlemen have come in and their operation has necessarily increased the price for the consumer. It is, therefore, very clear that while the producer did not get as much as he ought to, the consumer has to pay more than he ought to. Between the two, a number of middle-men, rather institutions, have come in so much so the price level has gone up. I would like to make one or two practical suggestions, Sir, while pressing for de-control.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Modified control.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: We can safely call it de-control, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru): Progressive adjustment is the proper word, Sir.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: A number of epithets have come into operation in regard to that control. There is progressive control, there is progressive de-control, there is de-control or modified de-control, so many other words but, anyhow, all these mean the same thing more or less.

If de-control can be adopted with these conditions, namely, that from surplus areas procurement might be made by a light levy from the producers or the rigour of the present procurement rules be mitigated and the option given to the purchaser to give so many bags per acre, it will work well. Hitherto, it was not the case. The authorities would leave very little even for cultivation purposes and used to procure what all was possible from the producer with the result that the producer himself was very much dissatisfied with the procurement operations and there was naturally mental revolt against controls. After procuring that way, whatever is procured might be stored up and distributed in cities and towns and also in other areas. To supplement this, whatever food grains are imported and made available for each State might be utilised. That will certainly work well and I think there will be no difficulty about that. Even the deficit areas like Malabar and Travancore-Cochin might be supplied in that manner.

I learn, Sir, that in Ceylon there is a method adopted: The local produce is distributed in the villages themselves and whatever is imported from outside is distributed in the towns and cities. If that is adopted, there will be less demand from the cities, from the rural areas and whatever is easily procurable from the rural areas can be supplied to the urban areas and the deficit areas. The 'light levy system' is not at all a new thing. A few years back, in Hyderabad, I am told, the light levy system had been adopted and it was found to be very successful.

With regard to de-control of millets that has been so much talked about on the floor of this House, I think we in Madras have already de-controlled millets in 1951. When the millets began to move out from the producers, whether openly or through clandestine methods, scarcity in certain areas has been very much reduced with the result that the complaints from those areas have also been reduced. The demand for millets in the absence of rice grew up so much that the millet price today is higher than the rice price. So, whatever may be said on the floor of the House about the de-control of millets, I wish to say that millets have already been decontrolled and there is no use controlling them once again, because when the control on millets was there, it was found that in many places millets were available but were not procured by the Government, because there was no offtake and the Government was not interested in procuring millets. The result was that in certain places the smugglers were openly taking some of the millet stocks out of hiding and they were arrested and paid for at the procurement rates, since the stocks were not allowed to be moved from the producers and the millets were losing their value due to deterioration. So, the decontrol process in millets started in 1951 and since then there has been a regular flow of millets from the upland areas in several districts where millets are grown to areas where millets are also used as a supplementary food to rice. These several adjustments are possible only when there is decontrol.

I have just tried to impress upon the House as well as the hon. Food Minister that the policy that has been adopted so far is good and it need not be changed. If there are any conditions to be imposed on the decontrol system, then let them be imposed, but let it not be said that we are introducing controls once again and we would make other adjustments later on. If we do it the other way, it would be far better, *i.e.* you effect decontrol and then put in as few conditions as possible. In this way, the consumer and the producer in the urban as well as the rural area will be benefited.

One other thing that I would like to mention is this. There is a good deal of propaganda about synthetic rice. This rice is manufactured out of tapioca. The moment the manufacture of synthetic rice began, the tapioca price has shot up and the result is that people in Malabar who consume tapioca as a staple food are suffering. The manufacture of sago from tapioca was bad enough but this attempt has put the poor people of Malabar at a great disadvantage.

Shri Kidwai: But tapioca can be grown anywhere. It need not come only from Malabar.

Shri Velayudhan: No, it cannot be grown. Only in our place it is grown.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I know that it can be grown anywhere, but sufficient propaganda is not made for it. If facilities are afforded, there is a good possibility of tapioca being grown elsewhere also to a far greater extent. My suggestion is that the money spent on synthetic rice is a waste. It is not good. I have myself eaten synthetic rice. The preservation value is very little. After one or two hours, it does not taste well. I do not think the people will be anxious to take to synthetic rice.

Shri Kidwai: May I interrupt the hon. Member for a minute? When I was in Malabar, I was approached on behalf of another kind of poor man who was growing tapioca. I was told that on account of the ban placed there, the prices have gone down with the result that these growers were finding it hard to carry on their living through the growing of tapioca. I think they require some relief.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I do not know why it is so, but I can assure the hon. Minister that it is possible to grow tapioca anywhere and if only there is a price incentive tapioca will be increasingly grown by agriculturists.

There is only one other question that remains. It is the bigger question of ceiling and floor prices. If the procurement is to go on, it is very necessary that floor prices have to be fixed and with a view to helping the consumer the ceiling prices have also to be fixed. Since the time is over I beg to conclude.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: The nation had been looking forward with great anxiety to the future food position and we on this side were wondering what the hon. Food Minister was going to present to us.

Shri Kidwai: Tapioca.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: The hon. Food Minister's speech would have been a bit encouraging to me, had it not been smashed by the Prime Minister's first speech and the Finance Minister's interference and finally the Prime Minister's closing speech. We on this side are in a confusion as to what the real policy on the other side is. There is a conflict of opinions—control; decontrol; relaxation of control; house-keeping; and basic approach to principles—all leading to basic confusion.

The food problem has been a very sore point as far as the Congress administration is concerned. It is the very clear result of utter incompetence and maladministration. We are, I am told, open to correction with regard to our figures. We are told that about Rs. 75 crores were spent during the last five years for the Grow More Food Campaign and the result is that the aggregate production of the country is on the decrease. Whether that amount is really irrigating fields or the pockets of some persons is my wonder.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: The latter.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: What could be the reason for the failure? The Finance Minister yesterday placed before us from printed statistics—God alone knows who printed them—certain figures showing that the cultivator gets now a better price for his produce. It may be that he was speaking of Bombay, but that is not true of South India as a whole. While meandering through the fields in my constituency during the last two months, I had come across fields which are growing bananas now but which had formerly been growing paddy. I asked the farmers the reason for the change. I was told, "It is more paying to grow bananas than paddy."

Shri Kidwai: That is so.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I am told that the State Government is now giving them a few more annas than formerly for the grains procured by the Government. Therefore, from my own experience I want to contradict the Finance Minister that his figures do not apply throughout India. We on this side should not be misled by such figures. The Grow More Food Campaign has been going on rather vigorously. The real reason for decrease in production is that they have no sincerity or honesty in executing schemes of growing more food.

3 P.M.

For instance, in Travancore-Cochin means of minor irrigation like canals and ponds which were in full working condition before the last five years are now filled up with sand. I have seen it with my own eyes. Is it a means of supplying the cultivator with sufficient water in order to encourage him to grow more food?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it suggested that the Government threw sand there?

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Government did not throw sand.

Shri Kidwai: I am told that the hon. speaker was a member of the then Government which caused all this.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: That is why I am not a member now.

Then, Sir, favouritism and corruption are playing such a part on the part of people distributing seeds and manure that the Grow More Food Campaign has become more a hindrance than a help to the cultivators. The policy of procurement in Travancore-Cochin State is very rigorous as far as the small holdings are concerned. Small holders have to sell their foodgrains for two rupees and a few pies per *para* to Government.

Shri P. T. Chacko (Meenachil): Rs. 1/14/0.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: It was formerly Rs. 1/14/0. Now they have increased it by a few annas. The hon. Member is behind the times. It is now Rs. 2/1/6 to be exact. I have come across a huge field in my constituency which is exempted from procurement. It is just bordering on a beautiful lake between two hills in my constituency of Vellayani. The neighbouring field-owners complained to me that a vast area of field is exempted from procurement and when I asked them the reason, they told me the owner of that field had got an exemption from Government on the plea that there was a flood and his crops had been destroyed. The actual fact is otherwise. The flood came and went back in a few hours and his field was in good condition full of crops. But the owner is related to Government not by blood, but by party!. In this manner much of food grains are not procured. They are converted into rice and are sold in the black-market which is very open on the public road-sides and markets in Travancore-Cochin State under the eyes of the Government and nose of the Police Department.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): Is not open market allowed there now?

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I am not speaking of the immediate present.

I am speaking of the past two years, Sir.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Here the hon. Member is behind the times!

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Not with regard to facts.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is evidently justifying the change of policy.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Yes, leading us to starvation.

The Travancore-Cochin State occupies a special place so far as Government's food policy is concerned. If the hon. the Food Minister is for decontrol with special provisions for deficit areas, I am with him, though I come from a deficit area. We produce only 40 per cent. of our requirements of grain which during the last five years has 'increased' to 36 per cent thanks to the Grow More Food Campaign! But even at this stage we are willing to favour decontrol, because the Food Minister told us that the north is a surplus area and the south is a deficit area and if they make up their minds to make an equitable distribution of the produce of the whole country the problem is solved. But how to oblige foreigners to import their foodgrains here on terms of their own and exploit India?

The failure of Government policy, Sir, has been due to the lack of fundamental principles of respect for moral values. If the Government will have intellect, will, energy, character and fidelity to principles to enforce the moral law in the rank and file, of their organisation this problem can be solved without any difficulty. We are confronted today with control and decontrol. The national exchequer, Sir, is exhausting a good amount for this. They are willing to spend any amount of the nation—I appreciate their love for the people—but they are not willing to change their land policy, or to make radical changes in the land policy which alone will solve the present situation.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

So far as Travancore-Cochin State is concerned, even if you sell rice at a lower price people are not able to buy because the average income of the common man has fallen owing to unemployment. The ration shopkeepers complain that the foodgrains supplied to them are not disposed of because people have no money. How are you going to solve that problem? We have land, we have labour, we have capital—we have all the agents of production at our command, but we do not adjust them and we do not follow a principle that will enable the utilisation of these agents of production and benefit the country. Our neighbouring nations have shown us the way. We will not take long to solve this food problem. Sir, I am for decontrol with provisions for deficit areas for the present.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar (Tirupati): Control is not an end in itself: it is only a means. Control is necessary only so long as the country is deficit in any particular essential commodity. The necessary corollary to this is that greater and greater efforts should be made to produce more and more.

I come from Madras and from Rayalaseema. Now Rayalaseema has been a famine-ridden area for a long time. Four districts out of five have had famine for every alternate year. My district escaped famine conditions for a long time, but now it had also got into the Rayalaseema group. Today it is not as if foodgrains are not available there. But people have no purchasing power. All round my town we have got heaps of foodgrains. But the poorer section are not able to purchase, because the main occupation and employment of the poorer section is agriculture. When for five successive years rains have failed and agriculture has come to a standstill, they have not got the wherewithal to purchase, notwithstanding the fact that grain is available and is flowing in plenty from other parts of the province. Therefore it is wrong to say that decontrol would solve this problem. The right remedy must be sought by way of providing employment for the poorer section of the population.

So far as Madras is concerned, though the delta areas are capable of raising abundant crops, they in actual fact are not producing, because of the rigorous policy of procurement adopted. Even a man who produces can keep only four months' requirements. He has to part with the rest. The man who produces the best grain has to eat the poor stuff which is distributed in the ration. How will there be incentive for production? The low procurement prices sapped all the incentive of the cultivators. Added to that, in five districts there has been successive failure of the monsoon. Therefore it is not on account of the policy of decontrol. On the other hand this policy of decontrol which was started boldly by the Chief Minister there, aided by our Food Minister here, has paid wonderful dividends. There is a psychological effect that people are free to purchase. If only you had pursued this policy a short time before the elections I am sure there would not have been one non-Congress Member in this House.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): Question.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: You may remain questioning till the end of the world. I am not trying to make it a political move. For five years there is no difficulty. I need not enlarge upon that at all. Nor am I speaking on behalf of any of the merchants who have profited at the expense of the common people. Two new classes have been created as a result of food control: one in the Government who do not know what will happen if decontrol comes into being; a number of young men will be thrown out of employment. The other is the new type of businessmen who have been created as middlemen and who had nothing to do with grain. People who do not know how to differentiate between one kind of grain and another kind of grain have become millionaires overnight. In my town there is a case pending. A man who never knew what it was to produce grains became a seller and for every bushel of grain he would add one bushel of sand. We have a reservoir where no water flows and it is full of sand. He mixed the grain with sand and offered it in the market. You have got your experience also when you purchase grain in the ration shops or fair price shops. For five years I have been eating food mixed with sand whereas today beautiful, flower-like rice I am able to get. Academically we can say that a plus b whole squared is equal to a squared plus b squared plus 2 a b. Likewise we can argue that in a deficit area you must have control. Barring these text book slogans people do

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not address themselves to the realities. There is plenty of food. Of course there is not over-plenty and we are supplementing our food supply by millions of tons from foreign countries. And that has to go on for some time to replace our import from Burma and fill the deficit on account of partition two and a half million tons of rice or wheat are in short supply.

A long time ago it was suggested that we must create a grain bank to draw grain into it whenever there is a slump and release it whenever there are high prices. Even today, in spite of our getting 190 million dollars worth of grains from America we have not moved a step in that direction. I speak subject to correction. By this time we must have built a grain bank which will ease the situation.

Shri Kidwai: We have got the stocks.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: I am exceedingly glad to take this opportunity of paying my tribute to the hon. Minister for his zeal and enthusiasm. He is one of our Ministers who generally does not speak much but acts very much. I am not saying this merely for praising him. What I say is certainly the truth and nothing but the truth. I am exceedingly glad that he is full of enthusiasm and enterprise. He even takes risks, but risks not attendant with any real risk, and utimately it proves all to the good. He started the night aeroplane service which today is much better than even the day-time service. What he has done in Madras in this matter is right and it must be followed in the other Provinces also.

He gave some figures. I can place reliance on his figures. I am not prepared to compare them. Comparisons are odious. He said that in the surplus provinces there has been the Grow More Food Campaign. On account of the absence of procurement in the rigid fashion irrespective of the consequences, they have produced better results. Each surplus province has shown better results. If that had ben adopted in Mardas I am sure they would have produced more. It is not for love or for charitable purposes or for philanthropic motives that the agriculturist, who is almost starving, can be induced to produce more. There must be other incentives also. That was lacking and in my province to the last grain it has been drained off from the agriculturist. This will not happen hereafter. Let there be no break from this. Let us be wedded to this policy. If a plan is dependent upon control even when there is surplus I cannot understand it. Why should there be control if there is a surplus? I am not able to see why any plan should be dependent entirely upon controls under all circumstances. Let us assume that we have twice or thrice as much of foodgrains as we have today. Even then do you want control?

I was one of the friends quarrelling with Mr. Sidhva who again and again produced statistics to show that there was no food deficiency in this country. At on time I said—because I come from a deficit area—that Mr. Sidhva wanted to kill us with his statistics. He did not kill us. I am growing fatter and fatter!

There must be a halt to this. Call it by any name. Some people are afraid of the term 'progressive decontrol'. All right, progressive adjustment or some adjustment that will ultimately lead to a cypher of this control. That is what I want. Under the circumstances I consider that a right step has been taken by our Food Minister. I whole-heartedly support the manner in which he has proceeded. On account of the restraints placed on him and the way in which he is perhaps pulled constantly, poor man, he is afraid of proceeding further. Otherwise he would have done so. And after all, the hon. Ministers have not spoken with different voices. Each one has tried to emphasize one aspect lest we should embark upon a policy which may lead to some difficulty in a particular path.

Some say that it is on account of lack of rains in my part of the country that the prices have gone up. Others will emphasize that it is on account of decontrol and reckless decontrol. The truth is in between these two, possibly on the one and possibly on the other. Let us not attribute it entirely to decontrol. On the other hand, the producers in the surplus provinces ought not to feel that they are under any restraint. I have to make one suggestion here. In all the surplus provinces there may be a particular kind of levy, so much per acre, leaving a minimum holding of two or three acres. Where it is beyond that, not more than half the produce from each person at a particular rate may be asked to be given. The rest let him sell at any price. The prices will equalize themselves or come to the lower level. Barring that nothing more need be done.

The other suggestion I have to make is that as early as possible steps may be taken to create a grain bank which will from a distance serve as a deterrent against rising prices. As soon as prices show a rise, these stocks can be released and the prices will come down.

These are the two things that may be adopted. And decontrol must be progressively carried on, so much so that in a short time, along with it the Grow More Food Campaign and our river valley projects will help us to grow more food and at the end of five years we will have no control but plenty of food to eat.

Shri Damodara Menon (Kozhikode): Sir, the Food Minister is a man of few words. As you remember, yesterday it was by a good deal of persuasion that he was made to speak for ten minutes. He wanted only two minutes. I think this attitude in the present circumstances is a good thing. We have had long speeches from other Ministers and from that we were not able to gather very much. It only added to the confusion if I may be permitted to say so. Probably the Food Minister wants that facts should speak for themselves. The facts he gave have shown clearly that the policy he is now pursuing is in the right direction. He stated that in surplus areas where procurement was not very strict, there was more food production. The Grow More Food Campaign there was more successful than in areas where procurement was very strict, especially in the South. He also gave us some figures. He said that in the Punjab for example about ten lakhs of acres were brought under cultivation whereas in Madras about ten lakhs of acres went out of cultivation. Now these statistical figures really show that we must make a change in our policy of procurement throughout India. But the Finance Minister gave us other statistics. I do not know whether he was trying to criticise the Food Minister but anyway he said that there is no relationship between the price of procurement and production. He also had statistics to support him. Now this seems to be rather a strange position. What the cultivators require is some kind of inducement to produce more. As the hon. Deputy Speaker has just now said if the cultivator who is producing grain feels that he cannot eat what he produces, that he cannot get returns for what he produces, there is possibly no inducement for him to produce and it is also a cruel thing to make him produce. In my own place, Sir, I know that this kind of strict procurement was applied only, as has been already suggested, to small cultivators. Big landholders and estate-holders succeed in finding means to escape the rigour of procurement. And more than all that, because of statutory rationing, when a poor woman goes about with two bushels of rice, she is caught by a policeman and the figures of such punishment are very large. But if you had analysed, what you would find is that the real culprits often escaped and therefore, as was suggested by an hon. Member, there was a moral degradation. If people who have been producing food can have a full meal, they are committing a crime in society! Now at least that idea has been removed. I do not know whether what is done in Madras, according to the terminology which is applied here, is decontrol or not. If it is decontrol I do not want to make any change. As it is millions of people are far more happy especially in the villages. Sir, I agree with the Food Minister and also with our Prime Minister when they say that our policy must be to reduce imports as far as possible and also to see that people get foodgrains at a reasonably low price. These objectives are very good. Now we have been trying to produce more food for the last many years. I do not know whether we can pronounce an opinion on it but the figures show that there has not been much success in this endeavour. I have got the Report of the Grow More Food Enquiry Committee before me. That Report makes interesting reading. First of all it challenges all the statistical figures that have been placed before the country. We know that we cannot rely very much on them. I would like to State my own experience in this connection. A subordinate officer of the Revenue Department told me just a few days before I started for Delhi that when he was asked by the Government to supply them within 24 hours the number of palm trees in his *firka*, he sent a telegram to the Government saying that there were 357 palm trees in that area. He had no statistics with him. Nobody had calculated the number of palm trees and there was no time for him to find it out. Even if he had time he could not have ventured upon such a procedure. I asked him why he pitched upon an odd number, why he did not make it 358. He told me that odd numbers have an appearance of precision and therefore he sent that figure. Now when figures are compiled in this manner and presented to the State Legislatures, one can understand what reliance can be placed upon them. I agree with the Food Minister that probably the food shortage in the country is not as much as it has been made out. As my hon.

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friend Mr. Kelappan pointed out yesterday, in our own place, even in the rationed areas, there were times when we were supplied only about four ounces of rice per card holder even though the fiction was that a card holder would get twelve ounces of ration. As a matter of fact we were given sometimes only four ounces. Nobody can live with four ounces and how were the people living? I am saying this because it applies more to poor villagers as well as the workers in urban areas. No body can believe that these people lived with four ounces ration. They were getting food from the black-market and paying a far higher price than probably they could afford to pay and they were spending all their money in the purchase of food in the black-market. The people in rationed areas told me that previously they depended on black-market rice but today they get more rice at a cheaper rate. I am sure they are benefited to that extent.

Now. Sir, I want to say a few more words about the way in which this Grow More Food Campaign has been working. I find that the Government, even the Planning Commission, is expecting to get about five million tons of foodgrains from the Grow More Food Campaign.

An Hon. Member: Seven and a half million tons.

Shri Damodara Menon: On the whole they are expecting to get five million tons from the Grow More Food Campaign. I am quoting from the figures given in this book. I do not know how far they will be able to do so. For the last six years this Grow More Food Campaign has been in existence in this country and we understand that after all, very little progress has been made. Government have spent a lot of money and even in regard to the expenditure of this money, no proper account is maintained. I find from this Report Sir, that about Rs. 28½ crores have been given as loans and the Report says that the actual amount of loans drawn and distributed by the State Governments are not available. These figures are not available and in the absence of the figures of actual expenditure, it is not possible for the Committee to estimate the extent to which the amount sanctioned has been utilised.

An interesting sentence occurs in page 43 of this book. It is this: "one of the good things of the Grow More Food Campaign is that good results have been achieved in the production of cotton and jute."

Now we started growing more food and we succeeded in growing more jute and cotton and that is the achievement of the Grow More Food Campaign. It would appear that cotton and jute are the staple food in this country, but it also has a lesson. What does it say? It says that wherever people got a chance they diverted their energies to the production of money crops because production of food crops was unremunerative. Therefore, Sir, if this Grow More Food Campaign should succeed, it is necessary for us to adopt a change of attitude—I would only say—in food policy and that change is slowly coming. Although the planning conscience of the hon. Mr. Nanda would not accept that position, or even the Prime Minister would not use that word, I am sure a change of policy is contemplated and it is in the right direction. The hon. Prime Minister in his speech was using another term for the policy of the Government. He called it strategic control. The Finance Minister called it overall control. I think 'strategic control' is probably more proper in this context, because, the Prime Minister has always been speaking of treating the food question on a military or war footing, and therefore, we must have some strategy. If we are having this strategic control, it would also make it possible for us to withdraw whenever necessary and manipulate our forces as and when it is required according to the exigencies of the situation. Therefore, let us call it strategic control. In this strategic control, let us hope that there will be more and more decontrol so that the people are not subjected to a lot of privation and harassment, and there is no necessity for the honest man to eat his food with a sense of guilt.

Shri Gadgil: Sir, I have listened with great attention particularly to the speeches of the Minister for Food and the Minister for Finance and the Prime Minister. Although the second speech of the Prime Minister has removed some of my doubts, yet, I am unable to say exactly what this present policy which has been enunciated by the Food Minister really means.

Shri Kidwai: That is plain English.

Shri Gadgil: I know that it will be a policy for control if in experience it retains all the advantages of control avoiding all the disadvantages of decontrol. But, to say anything at this stage will be hazarding merely a guess and it is much better to await the result. But, if past experience is any guide, I remember whatever has been said yesterday and today about seeing that the Government has its hands on the pulse of the situation, that it will not allow it to deteriorate, that every step will be taken to see that no serious consequences follow, all these phrases are familiar or practically the same phrases which were used in December, 1947 by the then Food Minister when he enunciated the policy of gradual decontrol. Today's policy is 1952 Rafian Edition of the same and I have not the slightest hesitation in expressing my doubt that whatever followed after December, 1947, may substantially follow the adoption of the present policy. From December, 1947, the prices, whatever they were, rose by leaps and bounds.

Shri Kidwai: No.

Shri Gadgil: By July 1948, when the situation became worse, when it had gone out of hand, Government awoke and after four months of consideration, conferences after conferences, re-imposed controls. But, the prices that had gone up to that level have not come down. In 1948, when the gradual decontrol policy was reviewed, we were promised that every effort will be made to see that the prices go down, and that it was not immediately possible to cut down procurement prices, but that in the course of a year or two that would be done. It was not possible in 1949: it could not be possible in 1950. In 1951, being an election year, obviously, it was indiscreet on both economic and political grounds. Now, in between 1948 and 1951 came the Korean War. Prices again went up. And now, on top of that come Rajaji and Rafi and prices are again going up.

Shri Kidwai: That is wrong.

Shri Gadgil: In 1947, the Father of the Nation, advised, and in spite of at least my own judgement, we adopted a policy of decontrol, with results now well known. I remember on one occasion the Prime Minister admitted that it was a great mistake and that the mischief that was done has not been retrieved. The Korean War was something on which we had no control. But, here we are told that what we are following is nothing inconsistent with our basic principle. I tried to understand in my own humble way what it means. The whole of Madras State is completely under decontrol; in Hyderabad, except rice, complete decontrol; in UP, except wheat, complete decontrol.

Shri Kidwai: Decontrol of wheat also?

Shri Gadgil: We are told that this has nothing to do with the basic plan which remains as it is. My own feeling is that Shri Rajagopalachari, for whom I have great respect and admiration—he is a great statesman, a man of great sagacity and high purpose; but that will not prevent me from subjecting his policy to a critical analysis and comment—has forced the hands of the Government of India. That is my view. It may have been politically good.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: On a point of order, Sir,.........

Mr. Speaker: Order, order: There is no occasion for a point of order.

Shri Gadgil: But, the question is whether it is economically in the best interests of the country. We are told that the policy that has been enunciated yesterday by my esteemed friend Mr. Rafi is no departure at all. He called it relaxation; another colleague of his called it modification; a third colleague of his called it strengthening of control. The hon. Prime Minister says that there is no change whatsoever and that the basic principles remain the same. I understand control to operate in two ways: either in territory or in commodity. In both ways it will be affected by the policy that has been now enunciated. Instead of calling it retreat all along the line, the Government has chosen to say, 'we have re-aligned our forces'. That was a familiar phrase in War time.

I am not at all dogmatic about control or decontrol. I am prepared objectively to apply my mind to the circumstances in which this or the other policy will be followed. The conditions under which there will be any thought of a change in the policy that was continuing has been well stated in the outline of the Planning Commission. This was published in 1951, and accepted by this House a few months after. As far as I understand, the policy of the Government continues to be consistent with the principles laid down here. Here is, Sir, what the report has stated:

> "Moreover, if past experience is any guide it is clear that where the controls are efficiently managed, the prices in the rationed and non-rationed areas remain fairly close. On the other hand, in the case of States which gave up procurement and rationing in favour of free movement and distribution through trade channels, prices rose to levels higher than in deficit States where the control system was comparatively more efficient. Any step in the direction of decontrol is under present conditions certain to raise prices and is likely to jeopardise the entire system of food control which has been built up

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in the country with considerable effort. The consequences of complete decontrol, it is hardly necessary to say, would be even more dangerous."

Then, it goes on to say what would be the result under partial or complete decontrol if expectations of availability are falsified and prices rise. It states:

> "Since internal procurement would already have been given up or greatly reduced, this would make the economy highly unstable and vulnerable. It is, therefore, necessary to continue internal procurement until the marketable surplus increases sufficiently either through increased production or through assured availability of imports."

As regards production, here are figures—they are our printed statistics and "Rafian" statistics (*laughter*), the printed ones we are told are not very reliable, and the other ones are yet to be finalised. So, in this context whatever I say, I say with a measure of caution. In the printed statistics, the production for 1948-49 was 47 millions and a little more;

In 1949-50	44,681,000 tons.
,, 1950-51	41,382,000 tons.
,, 1951-52	44,421,000 tons.

Now, if I apply the test laid down by the Planning Commission to which the Government is a party, to which this House is a party, to which, in a sense, the whole country is a party—has production gone up? The area under cultivation has gone down. The reasons given by the Food Minister are different, but the fact remains that the area has gone down. The point is that when the production has gone down, when you know there are scarcity conditions in one-third of the country, does the only circumstance that we have a little stock of two million tons justify our embarking on this policy? I agree with the Finance Minister that all efforts must be made to stop or at least reduce by a substantial measure our imports. That will save our foreign exchange. If that is No. 1 ideal, No. 2 fact is that our country does not produce at present as much as we require. That is a fact which has been clearly stated by the Planning Commission, and on which I think there is no dispute. If these two circumstances are there, the wiser course would be to see, that whatever is produced in this country is collected in such a manner as to give, in the maximum way, equitable distribution to every citizen in this country.

My hon. friend Shri Rafi said that the policy of procurement was leaky in the north, and stricter in the south. What is the remedy that he proposes? Give up the policy of procurement itself. In Madras it is given up.

Shri Kidwai: Did I say that?

Shri Gadgil: You did not say so, but Rajaji has made it clear that if controls come, he will go out. There is no question of procurement. Then, what is the position? Assuming that procurement is there, that it is resorted to in Madras hereafter, at what rate would procurement be possible? Prices have gone up in some places by 60 per cent.

Shri Kidwai: Wrong.

Shri Gadgil: There are the statistics.

Shri Nambiar: More than 100 per cent.

Shri Gadgil: I stand corrected. When the Government machinery starts work of procurement, the rate of procurement will have necessarily some relation with the prevailing prices in the province. I mean Government will have to purchase at a much higher rate. Naturally, the price in Madras will go up. Assuming they do not procure, and if there is some difficulty, they will use the stock that is with the Government for the present, and later on they will call upon the Central Govenment to come to their rescue. According to Mr. Rafi, this policy of procurement which is leaky in the north and stricter in the south, has led to loss of acreage in cultivation and production. I think it is not a proposition which at least I can accept, nor is it accepted by Mr. C. D. Deshmukh. There has been procurement in Punjab, and production has gone up. There has been strict procurement in Bombay, and the area under cultivation has increased. So, it has nothing to do with it. The wiser course is that in the surplus provinces you must procure in such a manner as to give as much as possible to the deficit provinces, and to cut down your imports to the maximum extent possible. That is not done. The real thing is that this Government does not enforce its policies so far as C.P., U.P., and other northern provinces are concerned, and those who, unfortunately like me, live in the deficit States, are asked to take from the imported food at higher prices, especially when subsidy is withdrawn. You talk of this country as one. You say that there must be one integrated economy. If you really believe that this is one integrated economy, you will see that not one citizen in any province gets more either in quantity or quality than a citizen in any other part of the country. This should be done if it is one country, if it is a country in which I have a right to live, a country in which I must be properly fed, a country in which I must get employment, I must get justice. What is being done is that procurement is to be given up. What is the exact meaning of Mr. Rafi's policy, that there will be no undue rise in prices.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Member will take much more time at this rate.

Shri Gadgil: Have I taken more time, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: He has already taken 16 minutes, and I rang the bell twice.

Shri Gadgil: I am very sorry, Sir. If that is so, I will conclude in a couple of minutes.

The point is that the policy which he is proposing, if carried out, will virtually mean complete decontrol, and handing over us poor people hand and foot to the mercantile community who have never been faithful or grateful to this country. I have not the slightest doubt. I have a right to warn the Government that although the Prime Minister says that nothing will be done, that there will be no releasing of forces which will undermine the plan, I honestly feel that this policy,—I do not say it will be intentionally, but unintentionally—if all the expectations that are raised are to be fulfilled, will be a time bomb for the planned economy.

Shri Nambiar: Sir, the question was posed here as to whether the policy is one of control or decontrol. Here, I have to submit....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members will not speak from bench to bench and create disturbance. I always find a tendency to speak to each other when the debate is going on.

Shri Nambiar: As I understand it, the question should not be looked at from that angle. The question here is whether Government should take the responsibility for feeding the people or not. If Government takes the responsibility of feeding the people, then Government will have to find the ways and means as to how food should be procured and how it should be distributed.

From the points enunciated, and from what is seen in the south especially now under Rajaji's regime, I see that the responsibility of feeding the people is not being taken by the Government of India. I can say with authority that today in the south prices have gone up very high. I can say that in my own district, in the district of Tanjore, before decontrol......

An Hon. Member: It is not your district.

Shri Nambiar: It is my district. I am here because of that district. In that district, the price of one bag of paddy which was Rs. 12 before decontrol, is Rs. 28 today, and the price of the latest *Kuruvai* crop, according to yesterday's *Hindu*, is Rs. 24 which is cent. per cent. more than the price before decontrol. And I can quote with facts and figures, that in the streets of Trichinopoly while during the days of the war, the black-market price was only Rs. 1-2 per Madras measure, today it is Rs. 1-4 and Rs. 1-6—more than the black-market price. I can prove my statement with facts and figures with regard to Coimbatore, Madura district and other places. In Palani *taluk*, which is a deficit *taluk*, the rice is not even available at Rs. 1-4-0 a Madras measure, which was never the price there even in the history of the worst days of war. I am prepared to go and sit with the hon. Minister and show him facts and figures to prove that the prices all over South India have gone considerably high. Apart from this, the people have become more pauperized due to unemployment, because of the slump in the handloom industry. In this background when the prices are even equal to and are more than the black-market prices, does it not become all the more the responsibility of the Government to distribute food at much cheaper prices? On the other hand, we find from the statement that has been made in the House, that the prices have gone so high, compared to the controlled prices, that we cannot even imagine to what heights they will soar. In 1947 in Vizagapatam, the price per maund of rice was Rs. 13-14-0, but now it is Rs. 23; in Eluru in 1947 it was Rs. 9-1-0, but now it is 14-6-0; where it was Rs. 15-7-5 in 1947, it is now Rs. 42-0-0 and so on. Compared to the year 1947, during the course of these five years, when the purchasing capacity of the people has gone down, is it not the responsibility of the Government to feed the people at a much cheaper price than what obtained during the control period? What we find here is that they come and say, 'We have decontrolled, and because of our present policy, prices have gone not to the level of the black-market price, but are still less'—and this is the first time that the black-market prices have found a place in Government records,

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and they give some imaginary figures for the black-market prices.

Shri Kidwai: May I ask a question? The hon. Member should also say what is the price in the Government fair-price shops, which are still continuing, and which are still serving those who are served with rations.

Shri Nambiar: I would submit to the hon. Minister that the prices in the fair-price shops have become more or less equal to the market prices—and in fact it is a misnomer to call it a fair price. The price in the fair price shops in Madras is shown as Rs. 1-1-0 per Madras measure, whereas in the open market, the price is about Rs. 1-2-0 or Rs. 1-4-0. In Madras in certain areas, it is selling at Rs. 1-1-0. But the prices have gone up compared to the ration shop prices. The price per Madras measure of rice when it was controlled as per ration shops was annas ten and a half to annas eleven, while now in the fair price shops, it sells at Rs. 1-1-0 or Rs. 1-2-0, which is annas five or annas six more than the ration shop price. Therefore you must not tackle the situation in the abstract way whether rice is available or not, as the hon. Deputy-Speaker has tried to put it. The question is rice is available to those who have the money, and for those who had the means to buy—it was available even in the days of black-marketing—but to the majority of the people, it is not available. It may be due to the decrease in the purchasing power of the people. But it is the responsibility of the Government to feed the people. I can say that the Government of Madras absolved itself of this responsibility of feeding the people, and has created a famine not only in the districts of Rayalaseema, but even in Trichinopoli Perambalur *taluk*, Udumalpet *taluk* in Coimbatore Dist. and in Madura district Palani *taluk*: and the whole of South Arcot and Ramnad districts which I visited recently. My other hon. friends who hail from those places will vouchsafe the fact that it is really a famine condition that prevails in these places. The food is not available to the majority of the people at cheaper rates. Even if they are available in the fair price shops, they are unable to purchase them, with the result that the people there are really in a famine condition. Is this what is known as the Rajaji experiment? Is this the success of the Rajaji experiment? Is this that is intended to be expanded throughout the country? Of course, we have to measure the success of the Rajaji experiment by counting the number of the dead rather than that of the living, which we will do later on. A similar experiment is going to be followed in Bengal also. In Bengal the responsibility of feeding the people has been taken over by the Government only with regard to the city of Calcutta. With regard to the suburbs, they had a policy of A, B, C, rationed areas, and now they say by January this also will be withdrawn. So a more or less similar situation exists in Bengal also. In the 24 parganas and the Sunderbans, you can see that a famine situation already prevails. The Government report says that they are feeding 1,60,000 people through private sources. There also the purchasing power of the people has gone down. Where the controlled rate was Rs. 17 a maund, it is now Rs. 32 per maund in Calcutta in the fair price shops. In the name of fair price shops, in the name of the new method of implementation of the Madras experiment in Bengal, they are bringing the price to the legalised level of Rs. 32 per maund, and I can show that the situation is in no way better in Bengal than in Madras. This will be the situation, if this experiment is followed by the Government, all over the country, and now our Government comes to us and asks 'Do you want control or decontrol?'. What we require is that every ounce of paddy or rice that is available with the stockists and the landlords must be procured *in toto*, and they should not have the licence to sell things at their own rates; they are not the masters to dictate at what prices the things should be sold, and they are not the people to decide the fate of thousands of millions of people. As a result of the procurement policy the Government had procured from the middle-class and the poor peasants whatever they had, with the result that the people have developed an averseness to control. This is due to the maladministration of controls and the policy of the Government that has been followed so far in this connection. When people are threatened with this situation, the Government are putting the question: "Do you want control or decontrol?" In that way, they are protecting the landlords and inviting them to get themselves enriched at the expense of the people. Therefore, I say, that the Rajaji experiment must be put an end to, and that the Government should come forward to feed the people. The people must get their ration of seven ounce or more, per day. As to whether this will be done through fair price shops in the urban cities or in the villages etc., I can only say that it has to be decided by the Government with this objective in view that the people should be fed at cheaper prices. In the famine-stricken areas, they must be distributed free rice, because they are not able to purchase what is sold in the fair price shops. For instance, in Travancore-Cochin, in Shertalai-Ambalapuzha *taluks*, where the coir industry has failed, even if rice is distributed at a lower price, the people are unable to purchase, because the whole industry has collapsed, and as a result their purchasing power as well. In the same ways rice should be distributed freely in Malabar, Tellichery, Cannanore and other places where the handloom industry has collapsed. In my own districts in Madras State also, I would say that free distribution should be started. Wherever necessary more gruel centres should be opened. (*Interruption*).

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Yes, there is demand for them. If you go to Udumalpet *taluk*, you can see half-naked women and men standing in queues, in the hot sun, in large numbers, for a cup of this gruel *kanji* that is distributed. It is not even rice *kanji*, but it is *cholam kanji*. I saw it with my own eyes. You will find the same situation in Alleppey and other places throughout the South. (*Interruption*). I saw with my own eyes, and do you want to say that it has to be denied? In these circumstances, what I say is that I want the people to be fed properly. If you cannot feed them with rice, at least give them gruel or some *kanji* or *ragi*, because there is a demand even for that. But do not go on with this experiment which would......

4 P.M.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is not that measure to be adopted independently of food control?

Shri Nambiar: The question is whether you have the food control or not! What is the result? You make the people suffer. You call it decontrol or you call it by whatever other name. You have not alleviated the condition of the masses. You are thinking whether more money can be made by decontrolling in such a way that those landlords and the rich stockists and the traders may be benefited more. Whether more money will be made or not —that is the discussion. (*An Hon. Member*: No, no). That is the discussion in its context. You may not put it in that form. I can understand that. But that is the discussion. I can understand from the Madras and Bengal figures. What is that levy system that you are having in Bengal? You say above ten acres there must be a limit. For the 1,000-acre man also you have put a limit. But between the 1,000-acre man and the 10-acre man, what is the difference? There is no difference. (*Interruption*). There may be a slight difference. You get from the 1,000-acre man on the same scale as you get from the ten acre man. (*Interruption*). The proportion may be a little different. But my point is that you should not take anything from the man who has got ten acres or twelve acres or thirteen acres and that you should take everything, that is, above the minimum allowed for his consumption, from the man who has got 1,000 acres. Have you done that? I can give you facts and figures from Bengal. In Bengal 40 per cent. of the land is owned by 30 to 40 thousand people *Zamindars* and *Jotedars* and they control 30 per cent. of the stocks of foodgrains, which come to ten lakhs. Out of these ten lakhs, leaving a margin for them to eat—two lakhs—if you procure all the eight lakhs, then the deficit in Bengal can be made up. Not only that, but you can send something to Madras. But are you taking these eight lakhs in full? No. Not only are you not taking that, but you are allowing them to sell at their prices at the cost of the ordinary man in Bengal, in Madras and throughout India and make the whole food policy completely go sattered over the country and you come here and say: 'All our control, all our rationing has failed. Therefore, let us go to the good old method of supply and demand and let us do whatever is possible'. You never accept the fact that people are starving and dying. Is it not a fact that reports are appearing daily in the papers that so many are committing suicide for want of food? Is it not a fact that you get daily figures in the Press saying that people have gone starving and due to want of food they are committing suicide? (*Interruptions*). You have always suppressed those figures. You never allow this sort of news to come to the forefront. And here in the House let us see the discussion that has continued for two days! The discussion is whether there should be control or decontrol? If there should be decontrol, how, and whether it should be in a graded way or a gradual way or whether it has to be qualified by some other term.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has taken 15 minutes.

Shri Nambiar: I will finish, Sir. therefore, I submit that I completely disapprove of the policy enunciated or likely to be enunciated by Mr. Kidwai. Whether there is any difference between Mr. Deshmukh and Pandit Nehru on the one side and Mr. Kidwai on the other, that is a matter for judgment. If at all the policy pursued in the south by Mr. Rajagopalachari is to be continued—I do not know whether it

[Shri Nambiar]

is the Rajaji plan or Kidwai plan—then there must be an end to that here and now and we must get an assurance from Mr. Kidwai that it will never be followed in any part of India. It is very necessary to put an end to this Rajaji policy. Otherwise the people of Madras—and I am one of them and I represent many there—suffer (*interruption*) and some immediate relief must be sent to Madras to save them from the dangers of this policy.

श्री टंडन (ज़िला इलाहाबाद-पश्चिम): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जी मैं इस प्रश्न पर उसी रास्ते से बहस नहीं करूंगा जिस रास्ते को हमारे अधिक सदस्यों ने अपनाया है । उस रास्ते पर भी मैं चलने का प्रयत्न करता, परन्तु उस में इतना समय लग जायेगा कि मैं जो मुख्य मौलिक बात निवेदन करना चाहता हूं उसके ऊपर बल नहीं आ सकेगा । इसलिये मैं एक दो प्रश्नों की ओर ही आप का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं ।

हमारे प्रधान मंत्री ने आज एक कुछ मज़ेदार बात कही । उन्होंने अंग्रेज़ी में बोलते हुए कहा कि हम देश भर के लिये 'हाउस कीपिंग' (house keeping) कर रहे हैं । बात सुनने में बड़ी अच्छी लगी । देश भर के लिये हाउस कीपिंग करना अच्छा आदर्श है । बूढ़ी दादी कहती है कि हमारा तो बड़ा भारी कुटुम्ब है, हम सब कुटुम्ब को रोटी देंगी, सब कुटुम्ब की रसोई की चिन्ता करेंगी । देश भर की हाउस कीपिंग ऐसी ही बात है । कुटुम्ब भर की, इस देश भर के कुटुम्ब के चूल्हों की चिन्ता यदि यह गवर्नमेंट कर सकती तब तो बहुत ही सुन्दर व्यवस्था होती । परन्तु वास्तविकता यह है कि वह सब चूल्हों की चिन्ता नहीं कर सकती है । और वह इस बात का दायित्व, इस बात की ज़िम्मेदारी, भी नहीं लेती कि हम हर पुरुष को और हर स्त्री को रोटी पहुंचायेंगे । आज तक उस ने कभी दायित्व नहीं लिया । वह प्रयत्न करेगी, यह कहा, परन्तु यह दायित्व कि हमारे देश में कोई आदमी भूखा नहीं रहने पायेगा, इसका कोई दायित्व गवर्नमेंट ने नहीं लिया । यह आप भूलिये नहीं । यह मौलिक बात है । तो जब लोग इस तरह का चित्र खींचते हैं कि लोग इधर भूखों मर रहे हैं, उधर मर रहे हैं, उसके यह मानी नहीं हो सकते कि नियंत्रण या विनियंत्रण की नीति के कारण ऐसा है । उस स्थिति के दूसरे कारण हैं । अगर यह गवर्नमेंट यह ज़िम्मेदारी लेने के लिये तैयार होती कि हम हर एक की चिन्ता करेंगे, किसी को बेकार नहीं रहने देंगे, तब तो उन दलीलों में वर्तमान विषय से कोई सम्बन्ध होता, नहीं तो वह असंगत हैं, उनका उस प्रश्न से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है जो उस समय विचाराधीन है ।

मैं इस कंट्रोल या डीकंट्रोल के प्रश्न को या कहां तक नियंत्रण किस अंश तक अपनियंत्रण इसको इस दृष्टि से देखता हूं कि हमारी योजना हमारे समाज के स्तर को ऊंचा करती हैं या उसके नीचा करती है । मेरे सामने यह मुख्य प्रश्न होता है । हमें एक रोटी की जगह सवा रोटी मिलती है, इसको मैं जीवन के लिये गोण मानता हूं । यह सही है कि हम रोटी खाते हैं और रोटी की बदौलत जीते हैं । लेकिन रोटी, रोटी, सुबह से शाम तक रोटी, यह क्या है ? हम मनुष्य हैं या पशु हैं, कि कुत्ते की तरह जहां भी रोटी मिली दुम हिलाने लगे । हमारे और भी काम हैं । हमें देखना है कि गवर्नमेंट जो काम करती है उससे हमारा नैतिक तल गिरने तो नहीं पाता है । मैं इसका विरोधी नहीं हूं कि गवर्नमेंट बूढ़ी दादी बन कर सबके चूल्हों की चिन्ता करे । आप इसे उठाइये, अगर आप में शक्ति है । लेकिन आप बूढ़ी दादी तो बनें और साथ ही साथ आप ऐसे गुमाश्तों को रखें जो आपकी मंशा पूरी करने के बजाये समाज के स्तर को अधिक नीचा करें इस से देश गिरता है । मैं ने जो देखा है, वह मैं

अपने अनुभव की बात कहता हूं । आप की जो पुरानी नियंत्रण की नीति थी उसमें आप ने मूल्यों को बांधा था । अमुक, वस्तु आपके निश्चित मूल्य से अधिक पर न बिके, यह आप की नीति थी । उस का क्या परिणाम हुआ ? चोरों और बेईमानी, न केवल बेचने वालों की तरफ़ से—वह तो उसके आदी हैं लेकिन खरीदने वालों की तरफ़ से भी होने लगी ।

मैं अपने अनुभव की एक मिसाल देता हूं । मैं एक संस्था का अध्यक्ष हूं । उस संस्था के पास कुछ भूमि है, उस भूमि में कुछ चना बोया गया । वह भूमि पंजाब में पानीपत के पास है । हमारे प्रबन्धक ने आ कर मुझ से कहा कि हमारे पास चना हुआ है, उसे हमें बेचना है । चारों ओर हमारा चना १७ रुपये मन मांगा जा रहा है और १७ रुपये मन बिक रहा है । पंजाब के बड़े बड़े खेतिहर लोग हैं, उन में एक एम० एल० ए० भी हैं, वह सब १७ रूपये मन चना बेचरहे हैं । यह बता कर कि हम से भी खेत के ऊपर १७ रुपये मन मांगा जा रहा है, मेरे प्रबन्धक ने पूछा कि क्या मैं उसको इस भाव बेच दूं । उस समय गवर्नमेंट का निर्ख १२ रुपये मन का था । दिल्ली, पंजाब और उत्तर प्रदेश में शायद दो चार आने का फ़र्क़ रहा हो । मैं ने उस से कहा कि अगर तुम १७ रुपये मन बेचोगे तो वह तो गवर्नमेंट के नियम के विरुद्ध होगा । तुम हमको भी ब्लैक मार्केटियर बना दोगे; तब उस ने कहा कि कि फिर पांच रुपये प्रति मन का घाटा बर्दाश्त करके आप खेती तो नहीं कर सकते । मैंने उससे कहा कि खेती हो या न हो, लेकिन हमारी संस्था एक अनैतिक काम करे, मैं इस की इजाजत नहीं दे सकता । मैं ने उसको कहा कि तुम गरीबों को १२ रूपये मन के हिसाब से ही अपना चना बेचो । उसने १२ रुपये मन के हिसाब से बहुत से गरीबों को चना दिया । हां ! इस से हमारी संस्था को घाटा जरूर हुआ । वह दूसरी बात है । वह फिर मेरे पास आया और उस ने कहा कि इस तरह से तो काम नहीं चलेगा, आप हम को भैंस खरीद दीजिये, तो हम उसको १२ रुपये मन चना खिला सकेंगे और हम अपना दूध बिकरी के वास्ते दिल्ली भेज देंगे । उस ने मुझे बतलाया कि इस तरह कुछ बचत हो जायेगी और मैंने उसके सुझाव को स्वीकार कर लिया । यह मैं आप को एक उदाहरण दे रहा हूं, जो स्वयं अपने ऊपर बीती बात है । चारों तरफ़ तो १७ रुपये चने का भाव है, खेत के ऊपर १७ रुपये का भाव है और खेतिहर खेत पर १७ रुपये के हिसाब से चना बेच रहे है परन्तु दिल्ली में केन्द्रीय गवर्नमेंट यह आशा करती है कि चना १२ रुपये मन पर बिकेगा ! यह क्या कोई अक्ल की बात है ? मेरी तो इस बारे में कुछ मिनिस्ट्रों से भी बात हुई । एक ने कहा कि हम भी तो उसी भाव ख़रीदते हैं जिस भाव पर बाजार में चना बिक रहा हैं । बाज़ार भाव उस समय यहां पर २०-२१ रुपये मन का था । मैं एक दूसरी संस्था को जानता हूं जहां छात्रों को चना खिलाना पड़ता था, वहां के प्रबन्धक २०, २१ रुपये मन चना लेते थे, क्योंकि राशन में केवल ६ छटांक था और छः छटांक में वहां के तगड़े लड़कों का गुज़ारा नहीं होता था । लड़के लगभग ८, ९ छटांक खाते हैं, पूरा भोजन देने को संस्था के प्रबन्धक चना बाजार भाव पर खरीदते थे । कुछ दिनों बाद मैं ने उन से कहा कि यह चना आप कैसे ख़रीदते हैं, यह तो अनुचित और नियम विरुद्ध है । वह इस प्रश्न में कुछ घुसे तब मालूम हुआ कि वह बाज़ार में चना खरीदते हैं परन्तु किताबों में मटर लिखी जाती है । व्यापारी अपनी इस तरह बचत करते थे, क्योंकि मटर के ऊपर आपका कोई दाम नियत नहीं था । यह बात मैंने आप को मिसाल के तौर पर बतलाई । ऐसे ही गुड़ के बारे में हालत

[श्री टंडन]

थी गुड़ का भाव गवर्नमेंट ने उस समय १९ रुपये मन निश्चित किया था। आज तो उसका भाव बहुत गिर गया है। मैं उस समय की बात बतलाना चाहता हूं जब गुड़ का भाव १९ रुपया मन निश्चित था। एक रोज मुझे लखनऊ में खांसी आ रही थी, मैं चीनी नहीं खाया करता, और न ही चाय का सेवन करता हूं। मेरे आदमी ने कहा कि आप के लिये तुलसी और अदरक की चाय बनायी जाय, उस में गुड़ पड़ता है। नौकर बाजार से चार आने का एक पाव गुड़ ले आया, मुझे जब गुड़ का भाव मालूम हुआ तो मैंने अपने नौकर से कहा कि तुमने चार आने पाव के भाव से गुड़ खरीद कर मुझको ब्लैंक मार्केटियर बना दिया, क्योंकि इस तरह तो गुड़ का भाव चालीस रुपय मन का पड़ा।

श्री किदवई : आप ने बेचा नहीं, खाया।

श्री टंडन : मगर खाने वाला भी तो ब्लैंक मार्केटर हो जाता है। मैं ने उस समय के जो मिनिस्टर थे उनको यह बात बतलाई और कहा कि हालत यह है, यह मेरा पाप है और आप मेरे ऊपर मुकदमा चलायें। नौकर की भूल के कारण मैं इस पाप में लिप्त हो गया। मैं यह बात इसलिये कह रहा हूं कि इस प्रकार के कन्ट्रोल और नियन्त्रण से समाज गिरता है और उस का भला नहीं होता। गवर्नमेंट जब किसी वस्तु पर कोई सीलिंग प्राइस (cealing price) लगाती है तो उसकी इतनी बुद्धि तो होनी चाहिये कि वह प्राइस (price) ऐसी हो जो चल सके। मुझे खुशी है कि बाद को हमारे मिनिस्टर ने वह सीलिंग प्राइस उड़ा दी। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि जब आप किसी चीज का अधिकतम मूल्य निश्चित करते हैं तो आपमें इतनी बुद्धि तो होनी चाहिये कि बैठ कर यह समझें कि किस भाव में यह चीज वाकई बिक सकती है। आप को इतना तो समझना चाहिये था कि बनिया जो छोटी दुकान ले कर बैठा है, वह हाथरस की मंडी के भाव से तो नहीं बेच सकता। आप ने तो १९ रुपये गुड़ का भाव नियत कर दिया। सम्भव है कि हाथरस में आप को १९ रुपये के हिसाब से मिल जाता लेकिन वह बनिया जो सड़क के किनारे पर बैठ कर बेचता है, वह तो हाथरस की मंडी के भाव से नहीं बेच सकता। नतीजा यह होता है कि वह कुछ बढ़े हुए भाव पर बेचता है और उसकी दुकान से जितने आदमी खरीदते हैं वह सब ब्लैंक माकटर बन जाते हैं क्योंकि उस की दुकान से खरीदने में १९ रुपये के भाव से ज्यादा देना पड़ता है। मैं कहता हूं कि आप की यह नीति देश को बर्बाद करने वाली है, यह कोई नीति नहीं है और जो लोग इस नीति का समर्थन करते हैं, उनको सोचना चाहिये और देश को सम्हालना चाहिये। कोई भी कंट्रोल अथवा नियन्त्रण जिस का आप अच्छी तरह से पालन नहीं कर सकते, नहीं रखना चाहिये। मेरी समझ में १००, २००, १०००, २००० या लाख दो लाख आदमियों का भूखा मर जाना अच्छा है, इस की अपेक्षा कि आप चोरी करके लायें और खायें खिलायें। यह देश का पतन है। जो मंत्रिगण नियन्त्रण के पक्ष में ह, उन से मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि अगर आप बूढ़ी दादी का इन्तजाम करते हैं, तो उसके लिये आप के हाथों में शक्ति होनी चाहिये। लेकिन आप के तो हाथ कांप रहे हैं और आप के आदमी बराबर बेईमानी करते रहते हैं। इस कंट्रोल की बदौलत आप के एक एक राशनिंग इंस्पेक्टर को बेईमानी और रिश्वत लेने का अवसर मिलता है। मैं इलाहाबाद की एक छोटी सी मंडी का हाल जानता हूं। हमारे एक बड़े

विश्वसनीय कांग्रेस कार्यकर्त्ता ने मुझे कई बार बताया कि हमारे ज़िले की एक छोटी सी मंडी में एक इन्स्पेक्टर रोज़ लगभग १०० रुपया ऊपर से पैदा कर लेता है। उस की माहवारी तनख्वाह मुश्किल से सवा सौ या डेढ़ सौ रुपया रही होगी वह आठ आने प्रति बोरे के हिसाब से जो मंडी में आता है, व्यापारियों से वसूल करता है' बोरे लाने वाले तो आखिर हमारे व्यापारी भाई होते हैं, जो कहीं भी पैसा देने को तैयार रहते हैं, जहां पर उन को पैसा मिलने का रास्ता दिखाई पड़े। लेकिन साथ ही आप के जो आदमी हैं, जिन को आप इस कंट्रोल व्यवस्था को चलाने के लिये नौकर रखते हैं, राशनिंग इंस्पेक्टर्स, (Rationing Inspectors) और प्रोक्योरमेंट इस्पेक्टर (Procurement Inspectors) यह भी बईमानी करते हैं और नतीजा यह होता है कि भ्रष्टाचार बहुत फैल जाता है। मैं आप से केवल इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं और यह सब बतलाने का मेरा उद्देश्य यही है कि आप जो कुछ भी करें, यह सदा ध्यान में रखें कि उस से समाज पर क्या असर पड़ता है और आप का वह कदम समाज के नैतिक स्तर को किधर ले जा रहा है। यह ठीक है कि बेईमानी संसार भर में है, वेईमानी हमारे देश में भी है।

पुलिस का विभाग सब से अधिक रिश्वत लेने में मशहूर था, हम यह भी जानते थे कि अदालतों में मुंसरिम और डिग्री नवीस खुला हुआ पैसा लिया करते हैं और हमारे वकीलों को इस का खूब अनुभव हैं, लेकिन जब से यह सप्लाई विभाग खुला है, मेरा तो अपना यह अनुमान है कि रिश्वतखोरी में इस ने सब को मात कर दिया है।

बहुत आप पक्ष करते हैं कंट्रोल का। कंट्रोल का मैं हर सूरत में विरोध नहीं करता। लेकिन आप समझें कि जो आप चाहते हैं उस को पूरा करा सकें अगर आप अधिक सख्ती से दाम बांधेंगे तो आप का बांधा हुआ दाम चलेगा नहीं। मैं मिनिस्टरों से कहना चाहता हूं कि अपने हृदय पर हाथ रखें। क्या वह कह सकते हैं कि उनके घरों में, जिस समय गवर्नमेंट का मूल्य चने के लिये १२ रुपये मन था, वह १८ रुपये और १९ रुपये मन नहीं आया? वह पूछें अपने घर में जा कर, अपने हाउस कीपर से पूछें, अपने यहां की औरतों से पूछें।

श्री सी० डी० देशमुख : मैं तो चना खाता नहीं।

श्री टंडन : आप ज़रा अपनी पत्नी से भी पूछिये आप नहीं खाते तो क्या हुआ।

श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री (आज़मगढ़ ज़िला—पूर्व तथा बलिया ज़िला-पश्चिम) बेसन के पकौड़े खाते हैं या नहीं ?

श्री टंडन : आप के नौकर हैं, रिश्तेदार हैं, वह खाते हैं या नहीं ? हां ! मैं असम्भव नहीं मानता, मैं मानता हूं कि बहुत ध्यान अगर आप रखें तो यह गलत चीज़ नहीं होने पायेगी और आप सफल होंगे। परन्तु इतना ध्यान कौन देता है ? जो महत्व के धन्धों में लगा हुआ है, वह देखे कि नौकर क्या भाव सामान लाता है यह साधारण रीति से होता नहीं। वास्तविकता यह है कि घर घर में मंहगा खरीदने वाले पड़े हुए हैं, हम केवल व्यापारियों को दोष देते हैं, लेकिन जिन लोगों को खाने का शौक़ है जिन लोगों को खाने के विषय में उदासीनता है उन की बात और है—लेकिन जो लोग खाने पीने के शौक़ीन हैं, जो चाहते हैं कि उन को दस चीज़ें खाने को मिलें, आप को मालूम है कि प्राय: उन सब के यहां गलत तरीक़े से सौदा आता है। मैं तो यह निवेदन करता हूं कि आप व्यापारियों को बहुत अवसर न दें बेईमानी करने का और जो माल के खरीदने वाले हैं उन की भी संभाल कीजिये आप उन को लाचार

[श्री टंडन]

कसब मनुष्य इतनी सख्ती के साथ अपना जीवन बिताने के आदी नहीं हैं कि वह हर समय इस बात का ध्यान रखें कि निश्चित मूल्य से अधिक पर कोई वस्तु मोल न ली जाय। बस मैं इस एक दृष्टिकोण पर आप का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं। आप की नीति चाहे जो कुछ भी हो, आप कंट्रोल रखना चाहते हो या नहीं, लेकिन आज की नीति में मुझ को यह बात अच्छी लगी कि हमारे देश में जो बेईमानी करने का दस्तूर पड़ गया था उस में इस नीति से कुछ कमी हुई है। यह फायदा तो मैं देख सकता हूं। हो सकता है कि कहीं कुछ चीजें मंहगी हों गई हों, जैसा कि मेरे कुछ भाई कहते हैं लेकिन यह लाभ मैं प्रत्यक्ष देखता हूं कि आज अगर हमें किसी चीज़ की ज़रूरत हो तो हम कुछ ज्यादा पैसा देकर खरीद सकते हैं, बिना किसी सरकारी नियम को तोड़े हुए। फ़ैयर प्राइस शापस् (fair price shops) की बजाय ज़बर्दस्त राशनिग़ करने के काम चल जाना चाहिये। जो ग़रीब हैं उन के लिये आप बराबर इन्तज़ाम रखें शहरों में। लेकिन हम सब भूलते हैं कि जिन लोगों को हम राशन के द्वारा मदद देते हैं उन की तादाद कुल जनता को देखते हुए कितनी कम है। देहातों में तो आप पहुंच ही नहीं पाते। उन की तादाद बहुत बड़ी है जो लोग देहातों में रहते हैं। जैसा प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा था कि एक तरफ़ आप शहर के राशन की चिन्ता करते हैं, दूसरी तरफ़ उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसे लोग हैं जो कि खुद अनाज बो लेते हैं। यानी किसान। ठीक है, लेकिन जो तीसरी श्रणी हैं जिस के पास ज़मीन नहीं है, किसानी नहीं करते, और जो शहरों में रह कर तन्ख्वाह नहीं पाते और मज़दूरी नहीं करते उन की तादाद बहुत बड़ी है। किसानों की अपेक्षा भी कहीं ज्यादा है, उन की आप ने क्या चिन्ता की। उनके पास तो आप पहुंच भी नहीं सकते, उन का इन्तज़ाम भी नहीं कर सकते।

मेरे कहने का सार यह है कि आप इस एक सिद्धांत को न भूलें चाहे कुछ भी हो। मरना जीना तो लगा ही रहता है, जिन की आप रक्षा कर सकें अवश्य करें, लेकिन यह ध्यान रखें कि आप की कोई नीति इस तरह की न हो जिस से समाज का स्तर नीचा हो और जिससे बेचने वालों में बेईमानी बढ़े या जिस में कि यह प्रवृत्ति हो कि खरीदार बेईमानी करे। बस, यही मेरा सुझाव है।

Shri Kidwai: Sir, I have listened with interest to the speeches of the different Members. I am sorry that the debate which was to take place on the present food situation and Government's food policy has been converted into a discussion of control *versus* decontrol. In my opening speech, I had stated what the aims of Government were in regard to the policy of controls. These controls were introduced during war-time to feed the cities at reasonable prices. The prices in the open market were very high and, therefore, Government had to procure grain by levying something on each producer and to sell the procured grain to the cities at comparatively low prices. Now, the situation is different. We are now trying to develop this country according to a plan known as the Five-Year Plan. During this period, we have to keep the prices down. Therefore, some sort of control has to be maintained. As I had stated, our objectives are to produce more and more in this country, so that, in the course of the next few years, we may not have to import any foodgrains in large quantities and we may be able to so arrange the distribution that everybody, both in the rural and urban areas, may get the foodgrains at reasonable prices. We have been trying to present form of controls since 1944-45 or, to be more correct, since 1946. We have to see whether we have gained our objectives. If you compare the ration shop prices of today with those in 1946, you will find that, except in some places and in respect of some commodities, there has been a rise of from 30 to 90 per cent in regard to different commodities. There has been a rise in the distribution price as well as the procurement price. As I had stated, although more land has been brought under cultivation, in the south, our production has gone down. Mr. Gadgil has questioned the figures. I may tell him that the area under cultivation today in regard to cereals

is 189 million acres, while in 1947-48 it was only 172 million acres, *i.e.* an increase of 17 million acres. In 1950-51, the acreage was 193 million, but four million have gone out of cereal cultivation between 1951 and 1952. There has been a corresponding increase in the area under commercial crops.

Shri S. S. More: Does the hon. Minister accept the reliability of the agricultural statistics?

Shri Kidwai: I am coming to that also. My contention is that the statistics are not correct. They are much under-valued.

The other thing is that there has been an increase in production in North India and a decrease in South India. Amongst others, I have also cited Punjab. We are told that in Punjab procurement is ideal and that there is nothing to worry. I am afraid my hon. colleague the Finance Minister has been misled by the figures. I have got the figures before me.

Now, in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, the procurement system is known as monopoly procurement. In 1947, 1948 and 1949, procurement in Punjab was 46,000 tons, a very insignificant figure compared to production. If monopoly procurement had worked well, the figure would have been at least 50 times more. In 1949, 1950 and 1951 when the outside prices were lower than the procurement prices, procurement naturally went up to figures in lakhs. I have got the prices of that area before me. I stand by what I have said that where procurement has been loose and leaky, production has gone up.

My hon. friend has asked me why I question the statistics produced by the different Government Departments. I have tried to find out our production in each State and what is the requirement of each State, and then I came across startling figures. I have come to know that Rajasthan, which is supposed to be self-sufficient and does not depend upon imports except when the crops are bad, is only producing 110 lbs. per head per year, which means it is living on less than five oz. a day. I call it ridiculous, because nobody in Rajasthan can live on less than five oz. per day. It seems that the old States had no records. There were no *patwaris* and the old *jagirdars* did not allow any records to be sent to Government. Even when the present Rajasthan Government was formed in parts the *zamindars* opposed the appointment of *patwaris*. Therefore, there are no records. If Rajasthan is considered to be self-sufficient, its production must be calculated on the basis of 12 or 16 oz. per head, or even more. That is why I call our figures defective.

The same is the case in regard to other States as well. If we keep away these States which claim to be self-sufficient we find that the requirements of the deficit States can be easily met from the surplus States. Now, here are the figures of production *per capita* in each different State. The hon. Members will appreciate that these are not figures sent by the States themselves, but collected by the I.C.A.R. by a sample survey.

Assam's gross availability is 375 lbs per head; it is self-sufficient Bihar, whose availability is 226 lbs. per head, also claims to be self-sufficient, except when crops are bad and when imports have to come. Bombay, which we call deficit, has 263 lbs per head. If Bihar can be self-sufficient, then Bombay should also be considered self-sufficient, but it is considered a deficit State. Madhya Pradesh has 488 lbs. Madras gets 284 lbs. that is much more than Bihar. Orissa's availability is 543 lbs, Punjab's 315 lbs. and Uttar Pradesh's 291 lbs. Similarly, West Bengal gets 378 lbs. I think no State can be more self-sufficient than this. It is, in fact, a surplus State. Rajasthan, as I have said, gets 110 lbs. and Saurashtra 156 lbs. Saurashtra says it is deficit in rice. Four years back, it was producing 5,000 tons of rice per year. It has been increased to 36,000 tons, and this year this State has supplied 2,000 tons to the neighbouring State of Kutch. Otherwise, it is self-sufficient, except that this year the monsoon has been bad and therefore it wants some millets. But, according to these figures, its availability is only 156 lbs. Travancore-Cochin gets 184 lbs. I think it is correct, because it is living on subsidiary food. Ajmer has 142 lbs. Bhopal is surplus, and according to these figures, its availability is 258 lbs. Therefore, I thought that restrictions on movements were holding up stocks in some areas and an artificial scarcity was produced in other areas.

Our aim, as I have said, is to reduce the prices and to improve the availability of grains. Therefore, relaxation was tried in some States, like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madras, and some forms of relaxation in almost all the States, except Bengal and Bombay. Now, the figures supplied to the hon. Members will show, there has been a decrease in prices in almost every State. An hon. Member from Madras has compared the rationshop prices with the open-market prices. He has

[Shri Kidwai]

forgotten that these ration shops are still functioning, supplying the same quantity as was being supplied when rationing was there. He has said that the Madras Government is now trying to get away from its responsibility. I find that they are feeding more people today than they were doing when rationing was there. I am sorry the rains have failed in Madras, and this requires special attention. I do not think anybody will contend that the rains have failed because Rajaji has become the Chief Minister and he has introduced decontrol. If controls had been there and rains had failed, then the position would have been worse. Now, as many Members, including our Deputy-Speaker, have said, there is no scarcity of grain. It is available in abundance and at reasonable prices. Government shops are also functioning.

Shri Nambiar: In one breath the hon. Minister says that because there are no rains there are no grains; in another, he says that there is abundance of grain and there is no difficulty about its availability.

Shri Kidwai: Grain is in abundance because it has been sent from the surplus areas, because Government stocks are being used there to supply the needy people. So, all that is required is being done and if the scarcity conditions continue, the Madras people will get all the help they require and people will be fed.

When the acreage is not correct, then it becomes difficult, as in the case of Rajasthan and Madhya Bharat. In respect of Madhya Bharat, which is supposed to be a surplus area, I find that from the acreage given, it is producing not more than 185 lbs. per head. Therefore, the mistake has to be corrected.

But we have got one figure which I think Members will try to judge from the results: we know what is our stock. In 1952, we had a carry-over of 13·3 lakh tons. Then we imported, during the year, 39 lakh tons. That made it 52 lakh tons. Now, our carryover for the next year, that is at the close of the year, is expected to be 18 lakh tons. Therefore, we have consumed less than what we have imported.

Shri S. S. More: Is it not due to the lessening of the purchasing power of the people? They are not able to purchase so much.

Shri Kidwai: But the grain is being sold cheaper, in whatever quantities and wherever it is required. This year, compared to last year, on account of the free market, there was less consumption from Government shops than during last year. Last year, the offtake from Government shops was 7·76 million tons, and 126 million people were served in the rationed, non-rationed and scarcity areas. This year, on account of scarcity in U.P. and Bengal, the number of people served from Government shops rose from 126 million to 133 million. But, as the grain was available in the open-market in most of these areas, except in Bengal, the offtake from Government shops went down from 7.76 million tons to 6.8 million tons. The number of people served was more but the offtake was less than last year. This also shows that relaxation in certain areas is helping in bringing more foodgrains into the market than was available before. But, as I have said, the aim is to produce more foodgrains and to distribute them at reasonable prices. Whenever we find that the situation requires any further strengthening of controls or relaxation, so that the prices may remain what they were before decontrol, all the measures will be taken.

As, I think, I had an opportunity of explaining earlier, with this relaxation of controls we have issued a new Foodgrains Order, which authorises Government to take over the stock with the dealer, if the prices in any area rise unduly, at the procurement price, plus a little expenses allowed, and to distribute it as cheaply as possible. I am sure, if the States act accordingly, there will be no difficulty in keeping the prices down.

I hope Members will remember that when rationing was relaxed in U.P. the prices of wheat rose from Rs. 16 to Rs. 22. Then the U.P. Government warned the dealers that unless the prices are brought down action would be taken under this Order. Then the prices came down to Rs. 17-8 and are now ranging between Rs. 17-8 and Rs. 19-4 according to the availability of wheat and the stocks in the market.

I hope Members will realise that we have not given up controls. I found, as I have said, that the controls we had in this country did not help in our objective, they did not increase production nor did they keep the prices down. As I have said, the prices rose from 30 to 90 per cent. in some places between 1948 and 1952. But relaxations in the restrictions on movement have again brought down the prices.

I have mentioned about Bihar once before and I would like to say it again because Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra has raised the point. There was rationing only in one city, *i.e.* in Jamshedpur; there was some sort of rationing in Patna city. Over the rest of the State, people had to live on the open market. Now, in the surplus areas, like Ranchi, the prices are lower, but in all the others they are high. Now, if you compare last year's prices with this year's, you will find that they are very much lower now.

The same has been the experience in U.P. The prices of all food commodities in that State now are lower than the control price, except of wheat. And the wheat prices are high because relaxations were made when the State Government had already procured a large quantity out of the surplus stock. Therefore, the prices naturally rose. Then, Government were selling at subsidised rates. They were purchasing at Rs. 16 a maund. And Government had to acquire from the Centre 2,18,000 tons of wheat at Rs. 20/8/- a maund (at port); later on, it was reduced to Rs. 18-8 a maund. But with the transport expenses it must be coming to over Rs. 20; and the incidental charges on wheat were Rs. three a maund. Therefore, had they not been subsidising it, they should have been selling wheat at about Rs. 21 or Rs. 22 a maund. Now, they have recently raised the price, and it is Rs. 18 a maund. There is, thus, hardly any difference between the open market and the controlled market.

There has been some discussion about the new step that is being taken. Some people have called it decontrol of millets; some have called it general decontrol. But it is nothing of the kind. The original proposal which I had made was that millets should be given free movement, as there was hardly any procurement of millets. The millet procurement in 1951 was less than six per cent. of the total production. In some areas, because the stocks of millets are more than the local requirement, the prices are falling. In some areas, because the requirement of millets is more than the availability, the prices are rising. The surplus States do not intend to procure millets because they are afraid that with the falling prices they may have to lose. I may tell the hon. Members that this has been the experience of the Madhya Pradesh and Hyderabad Governments who have from last year's stock, 70,000 tons each. The prices outside are lower than the prices at which they have been purchased, and they have made storage and other charges. The prices outside are collapsing. One day, we received a report that in Wardha the prices were Rs. 6/4/- a maund. That means that the producer must have sold at Rs. 5/8/- a maund or even at less. Therefore, if the prices collapse we will suffer enough. Last year we had imported more than six lakhs tons. This year also there is a demand that we should import some. Bombay wants three lakhs tons of millets, Madras two lakhs tons, Mysore 80,000 tons and Saurashtra 50,000 tons, of which we have already given some from Hyderabad and Madhya Pradesh and they still require about 25,000 tons more. We hope that from the surplus areas of Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Hyderabad, PEPSU and Punjab, we will be able to procure and supply to them, when we will not be required to import any more. This is the only change—you may call it decontrol, you may call it relaxation or you may call it extension of the procurement area, because up to now a State Government was authorised to procure within its jurisdiction but it was not allowed to go to other States for purchasing. Now my friend Mr. Gadgil has said, "Why not ask the State Governments to procure and supply to other Governments?"

Shri Gadgil: What I said was: "Do not allow private merchants either to buy or to sell in other States. Do it on the State level and through State agency".

Shri Kidwai: Private merchants do not come into the picture, except that the State Governments do not have control over milo. They will take it to their States and the final handling will be done by the State Governments.

Now, in the State-to-State dealing we shall see what are the additional charges besides the transport charges and the commission of the agents, because these have to be given over and above. Over and above them, the State Governments have got their own charges which makes the cost prohibitive. Supposing U.P. wants to send rice to Bombay. The price of coarse rice is Rs. 22 a maund while the transport charges are Rs. 3-12-7 a maund. Adding the transport and incidental charges, it comes to nearly Rs. 27 a maund. The Bombay Government add nine per cent. for handling charges, and by the time it reaches the consumer, Rs. 22 become Rs. 30. Therefore, I think, if we want to keep the prices down, all these charges have to be eliminated. This is what the new change is intended to do.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): According to the plan

[**Shri H. N. Mukerjee**]

named after the hon. Minister, West Bengal, it seems, was to have a levy on the surplus stocks with owners of 15 acres and over. Now it seems to have been changed and there is to be a levy on those who have ten acres and over. I want to know the reasons for it and also the reason why West Bengal, in the present position, is being required to give to the Central pool 1·5 lakhs tons.

Shri Kidwai: Orissa, for no fault of its own, has to give three lakhs tons. We asked Bengal and they willingly agreed to supply 1,50,000 tons. The claim that was preferred at that time was that a levy should be imposed on cultivators who cultivate 15 acres or more, but it was found that the figures on which the Bengal Government were calculating were old, pre-partition figures. Therefore, we thought that we would be able to secure four and a half lakhs tons by imposing a levy only on cultivators of 15 acres. Now, we find we were mistaken. Therefore, it has been revised and now the levy will be made on cultivators of ten acres or more.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Would it not mean privation for those who are least able to bear it?

Shri Kidwai: I hope the Member will see that it was originally proposed that when making the levy over surplus rice or paddy, seven maunds per unit would be allowed to be retained by the cultivator. Now, it has been relaxed a little so that each cultivator will be allowed ten maunds, i.e., about 22 oz. or more per head per day. I think that is a sufficient guarantee and there will be no hardship.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There has been sufficient discussion for a couple of days on this motion from all sides of the House. Now I will put the amendments to the vote of the House.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur): I beg to move for leave to withdraw my amendment which was moved on 17th November 1952 on the motion moved by Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami (Kushtagi): I am not withdrawing my amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

"and having considered the same, this House urges upon the Government—

(1) to take firm and effective steps to make the Grow More Food Campaign a success by creating mixed agencies of State and its farmers among each group of villages in the State districts on co-operative basis with an active management to discharge the responsibility of executing the schemes of planned economy for concerned villages and thus for the whole mother State; and

(2) to have an uniform policy towards decontrol and for the meanwhile to procure and to distribute certain foodgrains on fair prices to scarcity areas."

The motion was negatived.

5 P.M.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put Mr. Altekar's amendment

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Sir, there is an amendment to this amendment, No. 5.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member pressing the amendment?

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Gauhati): Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I believe it was not moved at all. Amendments numbers 5, 6, 7 and 8 were not moved. I will only put the other amendments to the House.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): The Speaker said that these would be allowed to be discussed this morning.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members can speak on any number of things, moved or not moved.

Shri B. S. Murthy: The Speaker said that these amendments will be taken as moved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But, there is no record to that effect.

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): In the beginning, the names of hon. Members were called. Those who answered in the affirmative, their amendments were taken as moved. All these amendments were moved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I find here in the Speaker's own handwriting only four amendments moved on 17th November 1952, that is, the amendments of Dr. Lanka Sundaram, Shri Sivamurthi Swami, Sardar Amar Singh Saigal and Mr. Ganesh Sadashiv Altekar. The three earlier amendments have already been disposed of by the House. I shall put the last amendment to the House. The other amendments have not been moved.

Shri Nambiar: I have sent notice of an amendment yesterday. It was circulated. This morning the Speaker said that the other amendments as printed will be taken as moved.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I mention, Sir, that I moved my amendment to the amendment immediately after the amendment was moved. Mr. Chatterjee was in the Chair at that time.

Some Hon. Members: Put them to the vote of the House.

Shri B. S. Murthy: The exact wording of the Speaker was, the other amendments as circulated are taken as moved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was said yesterday.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Today.

Some Hon. Members: We were also here; we have not heard this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Members will have the satisfaction of my placing them before the House. Now, the amendment to Mr. Altekar's amendment. The question is:

That in the amendment moved by Shri Ganesh Sadashiv Altekar, the following be omitted:

"without prejudice to the basic objectives."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

"and having considered the same, this House approves of the policy of Government regarding general control of foodgrains and welcomes the desire of Government to adjust the same to suit local or temporary conditions without prejudice to the basic objectives."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Jhunjhunwala.

Shri Jhunjhunwala (Bhagalpur Central): I did not move it, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Nambiar's amendment.

Shri Nambiar: I move it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Moving it now?

Shri Nambiar: I have already moved it; I am not withdrawing.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Treating it as moved, I will put it to the House.

The question is:

That at the end......

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur Distt.—South): On a point of order, Sir,......

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: In view of the amendment now carried by the House, how can the others be added? It is not clear to me.

Some Hon. Members: All the others are defeated.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no harm. What is the point of order?

Shri Sinhasan Singh: The point of order is this. The other amendment was put to the House and carried by the House unanimously.

Some Hon. Members: Not unanimously.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Nobody said 'No'.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: The other amendments need not be put to the House. How do they stand now?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The mere fact that the other amendment has been carried unanimously does not preclude this amendment unless this amendment covers the same ground. He wants to add something more.

Shri Kidwai: Inconsistently with that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, it can be fitted in. Let me not stand on technicalities. With respect to the motion that the Food policy be taken into consideration, a number of suggestions

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

can be made by various hon. Members. One suggestion is that adjustments may be made from time to time. That was carried by the House. Now, there are some more specific suggestions regarding the food policy, and what the Government has to do.

Shri Kidwai: The Speaker had disallowed two paras. in that.

Shri Nambiar: Not this amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have not got the record here; I do not find it. I shall put the whole amendment to vote.

The question is:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

> "and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that—
>
> (i) that Government should take the responsibility of feeding the people;
>
> (ii) that more fair price shops should be opened in all the urban areas and in the deficit and rural areas in the State of Madras consulting the popular organisations of the peasants, workers and the people;
>
> (iii) that in the fair price shops all who apply should be given ration cards and distribution should be guaranteed at still more reduced prices;
>
> (iv) that in the famine areas in the various districts and taluks of Madras State free distribution of food stuff to the famine-stricken people be undertaken in addition to opening more gruel shops;
>
> (v) that in order to achieve the above objective, procurement from landlords and stockists must be resorted to;
>
> (vi) that the question of decontrol without specific reference to the possibility of implementing the above policy is harmful and disastrous."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

> "and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that a very effective step to improve the food production would be to ensure governmental purchase at an economic price over a period of not less than five years".

The motion was nagatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will now put the main motion before the House as amended by Mr. Altekar's amendment which has been accepted by the House.

The question is:

> "That the food situation be taken into consideration, and having considered the same, this House approves of the policy of Government regarding general control of foodgrains and welcomes the desire of Government to adjust the same to suit local or temporary conditions without prejudice to the basic objectives."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House now stands adjourned to 10-45 A.M tomorrow.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 19th November, 1952.